SPAWN
RESURRECTION

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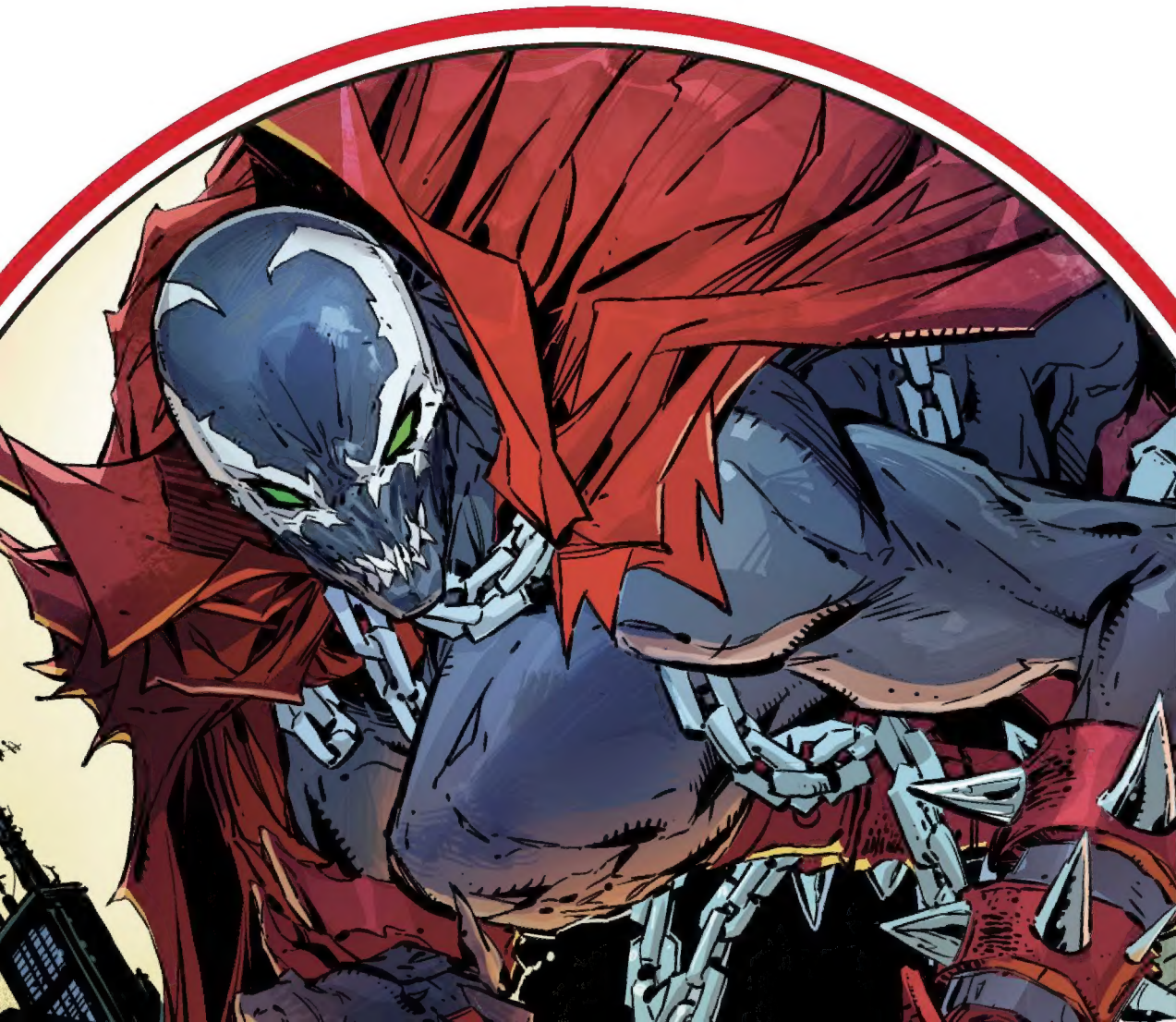
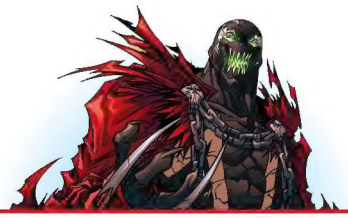


TODD McFARLANE & IMAGE COMICS PRESENT

SPAWN RESURRECTION

COLLECTING *SPAWN RESURRECTION* AND *SPAWN* #251-255

SPAWN®



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TODD McFARLANE
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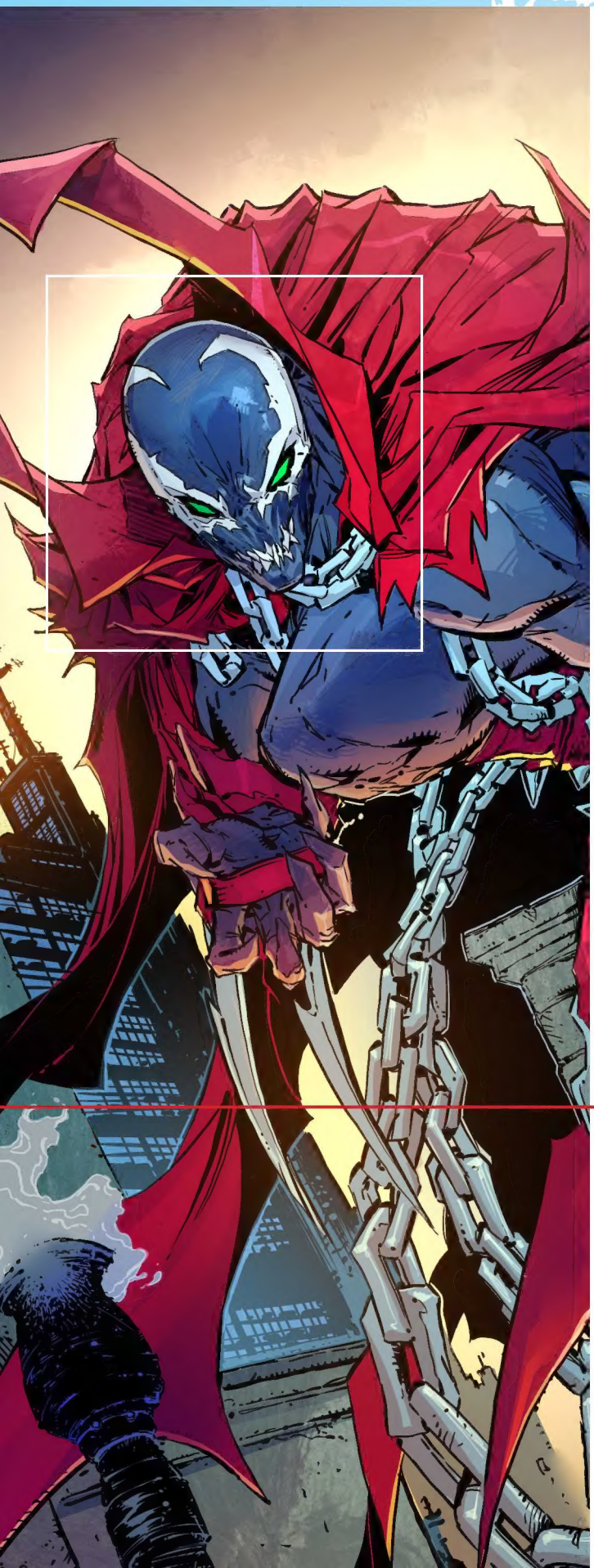

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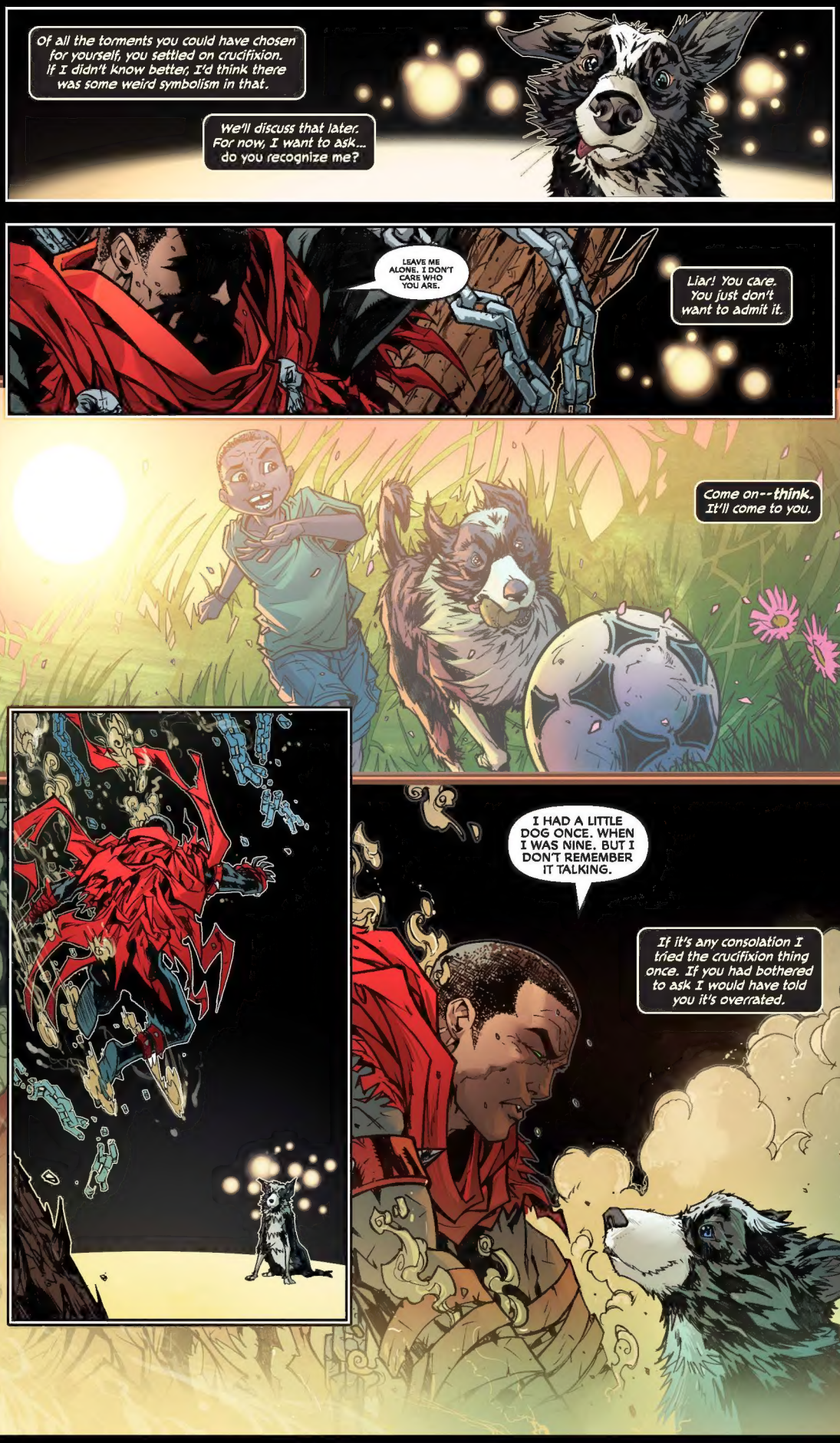
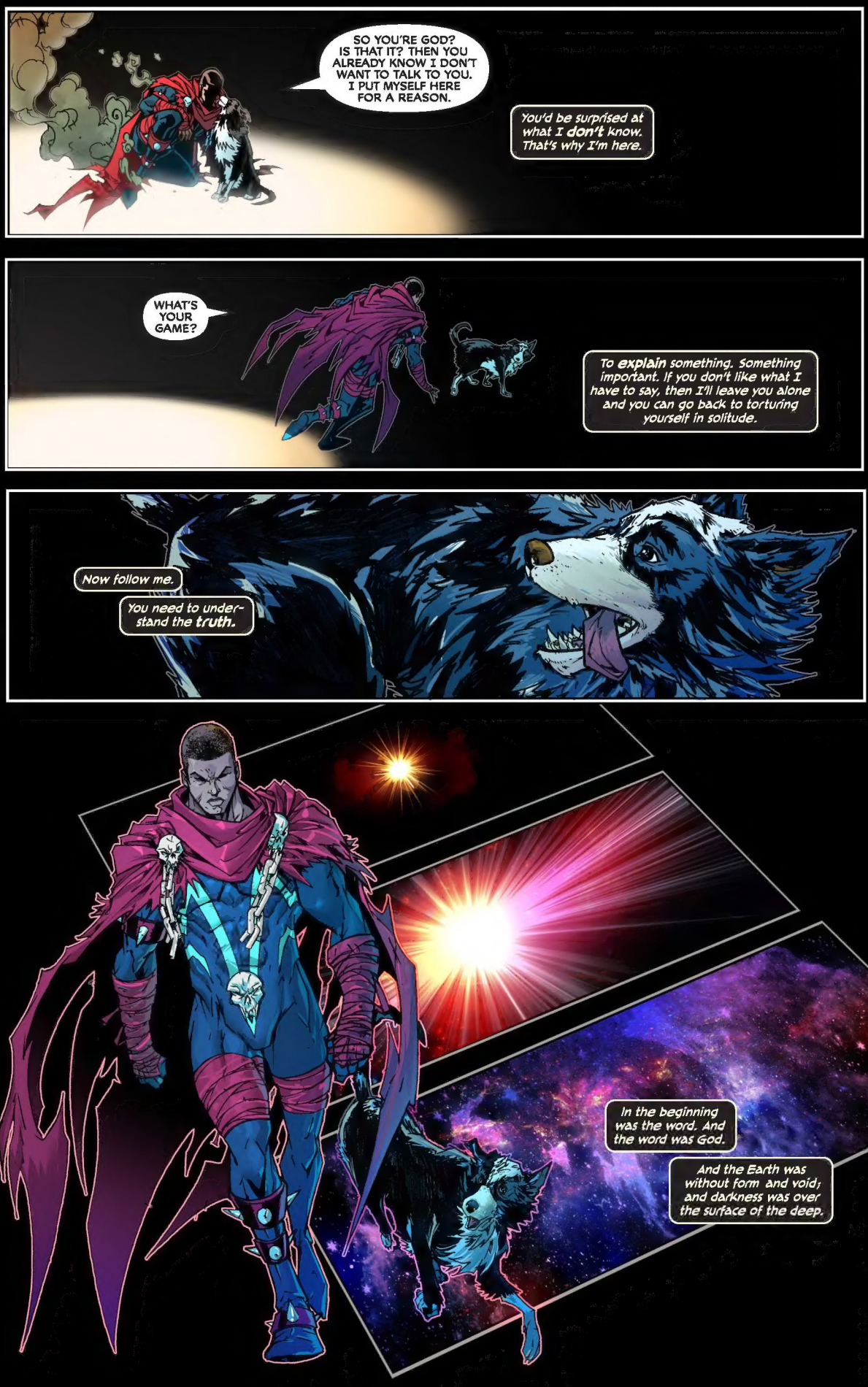
SPAWN RESURRECTION, COVER

Everything I've done, I have done out of love.


Of all the torments you could have chosen for yourself, you settled on crucifixion. If I didn't know better, I'd think there was some weird symbolism in that.
We'll discuss that later. For now, I want to ask... do you recognize me?
LEAVE ME ALONE. I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE.
Liar! You care. You just don't want to admit it.
Come on--think. It'll come to you.
I HAD A LITTLE DOG ONCE. WHEN I WAS NINE. BUT I DON'T REMEMBER IT TALKING.
If it's any consolation I tried the crucifixion thing once. If you had bothered to ask I would have told you it's overrated.

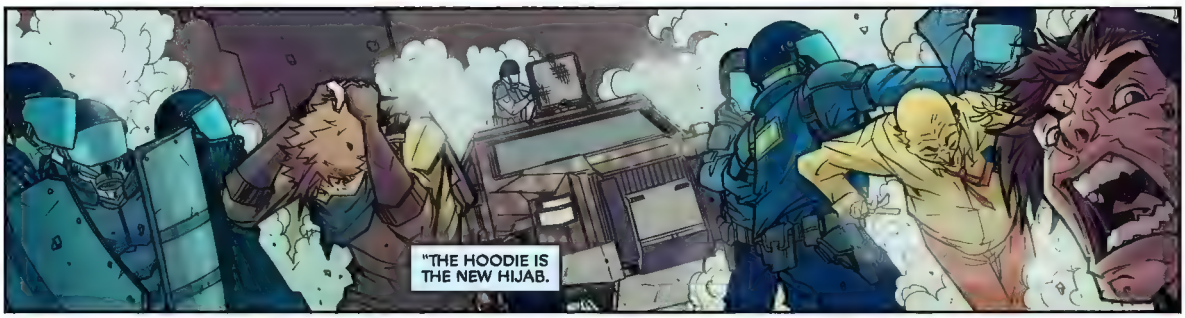

SO YOU'RE GOD? IS THAT IT? THEN YOU ALREADY KNOW I DON'T WANT TO TALK TO YOU. I PUT MYSELF HERE FOR A REASON.
You'd be surprised at what I don't know. That's why I'm here.
WHAT'S YOUR GAME?
To explain something. Something important. If you don't like what I have to say, then I'll leave you alone and you can go back to torturing yourself in solitude.
Now follow me.
You need to understand the truth.
In the beginning was the word. And the word was God.
And the Earth was without form and void; and darkness was over the surface of the deep.

In the beginning, I created. I gave the universe form.
And in creating it, I determined exactly what would happen and when it would end.
And when I looked at everything I'd created, it was perfect.
So perfect and predetermined that it no longer had meaning. It had become a complete waste of my time.
So I changed things. I created humanity. Because I needed something that was flawed.

LET'S SAY I BELIEVE YOU'RE GOD-- WHICH I DON'T-- I'M NOT INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY!
BUT IF YOU FEEL THE NEED TO TALK ABOUT YOUR BULLSHIT STORY, GO AHEAD. I CAN'T STOP YOU. LAMENT ABOUT HOW DIFFICULT IT IS TO BE A GOD. YOU WOULDN'T BE THE FIRST.
Oh... that's right. You know everything. You have it all figured out. That's why you blew your brains out, because you've got all the answers.* So, I'm going to talk. You don't have to listen if you don't want.
Humanity is a unique part of my Creation. All those centuries ago, I realized I'd made a mistake. If everything I'd created was perfect and it was all decided, then it was pointless. I couldn't accept that.
*Spawn #185 -- Todd
I decided I didn't want to know how it all ends for your race.
There was only one way to do that, I had to make myself forget.
I hid the end of humanity's story, even from myself. That's the point of mankind. That's the truth.
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THIS?
Because one thing I can do is see into people's hearts.
I know why you killed yourself. It was the only option you felt you had. You wanted to take yourself out of the game because you were sick of it all. And you wanted your disappearance to cause a ripple effect.
When I hid the future from myself, I'd forgotten there was going to be a war.

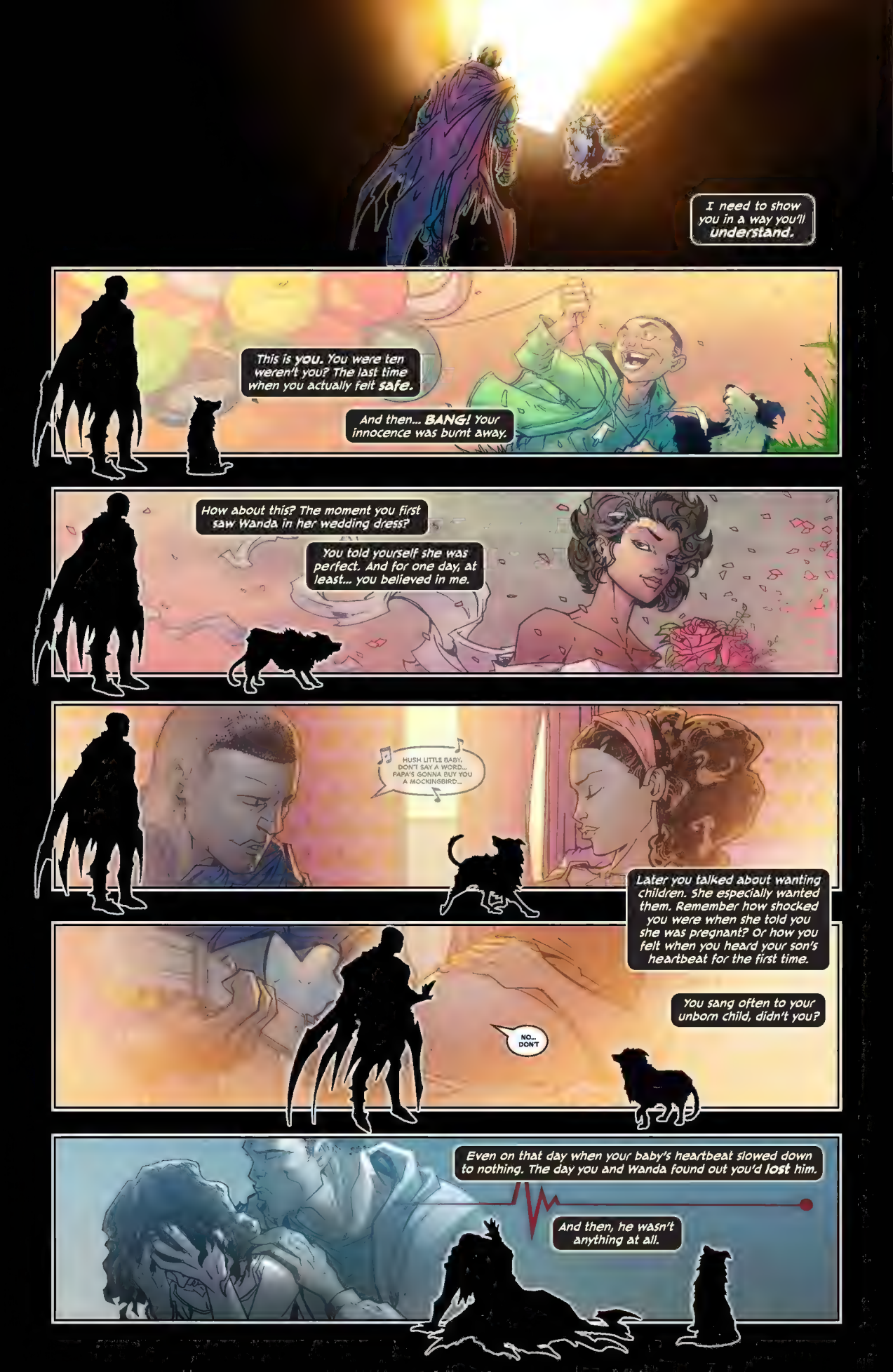
"AN ATTACK ON OUR SOIL BY MILITANT FUNDAMENTALISTS IS AN ATTACK ON THE AMERICAN WAY OF LIFE."
FATAL SHOOTING
POLICE LINE DO NOT CROS
ASK YOURSELF THIS ONE QUESTION: CAN YOU LOOK IN THE MIRROR AND ACCEPT WHAT WE'VE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN IN THIS COUNTRY?
CAN YOU TURN A DEAF EAR TO THE SOCIALIST PROPAGANDA THAT SPEWS FROM THE LIBERAL MOUTHPIECE? THE TERRORISTS DIDN'T.
Channel 12 News
"THESE MUSLIMS FEED INTO THE LIBERAL LIE--THE ONE THAT SAYS THEY CAN WEAR THEIR HIJABS IN PUBLIC WHILE THEY'RE USING OUR OWN PLANES TO KILL US."
HANDS UP
DONT SHOOT
"WE ALLOWED BLEEDING HEART LIBERALS TO MAKE US FEEL GUILTY FOR RACIAL PROFILING.
WE CAN'T BREATHE
AM I Next?
"THEY TOLD US THE BEHEADINGS AND THE HIJACKINGS WOULDN'T HAPPEN IF WE JUST ACCEPTED THESE PEOPLE FOR WHO THEY ARE.
"SO WE LISTENED. AND WE TOLERATED.
AND THE LIBERALS GOT EMBOLDENED.
AND NOW SOME THUG... SOME PUNK... GETS SHOT IN THE BACK DOWN IN LOUISIANA, AND THE LEFTIES GO CRAZY AGAIN.

"LET ME ASK YOU ANOTHER QUESTION, AMERICA: DO YOU THINK THESE GODLESS SONS OF BITCHES THROWING PETROL BOMBS AT POLICE ARE ON *YOUR* SIDE: THE SIDE OF COMMON *DECENCY?*
YOU THINK SOME PUNK WHO DIDN'T BOTHER TO FINISH HIS EDUCATION--WHO STOLE FROM A CONVENIENCE STORE BECAUSE THE SOCIALISTS TOLD HIM, "THEFT IS PROPERTY--"
--YOU THINK THAT IGNORANT SON OF A BITCH DIDN'T DESERVE TO GET SHOT FOR RUNNING FROM THE SCENE OF A CRIME?
GET ON THE SAME PAGE, AMERICA. THIS IS WAR! NO TWO WAYS ABOUT IT. WE WERE FIGHTING IT THREE THOUSAND MILES FROM OUR SHORES, BUT WE TOOK OUR EYES OFF THE PRIZE.
"AND NOW THE RADICALS ARE WAGING WAR UNDER OUR VERY NOSES.


"THE HOODIE IS THE NEW HIJAB.

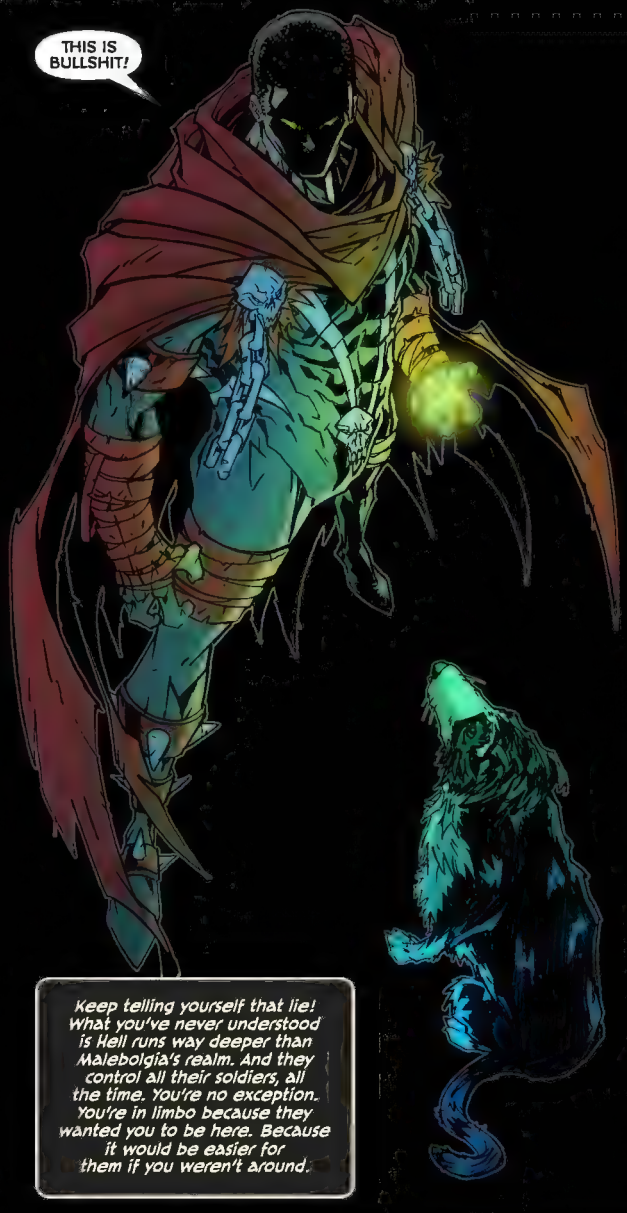
"IT'S THE SAME WAR IT'S *ALWAYS* BEEN, FOLKS: A WAR BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL."
BLACK LIFE MATTERS
Please Don't Shoot!
WHICH SIDE ARE *YOU* GOING TO BE ON?

I KILLED MYSELF BECAUSE IT WAS TIME. NOTHING WAS GOING TO CHANGE, SO I CHANGED THINGS!
To what end? You didn't change anything. You created a vacuum and let some poor soul take over your identity. Jim Downing never stood a chance. You condemned him the moment you committed suicide.
I DID WHAT WAS NEEDED TO BE LEFT ALONE.
That's not true. You don't want to be left alone. You want to be loved.
"LOVED"? YOU'RE NOT THAT F*CKING NAÏVE?
SO TELL ME, 'GOD'... HOW DOES MY TORMENT REPRESENT YOUR LOVE?
Bitter, aren't you? I'd have thought a man bound by chains would be the first to understand.
Let me ask: would you rather I showed you your future, where you'd be imprisoned by that fate? Or, would you rather be free?
DOESN'T MATTER.
Yes it does.
Come with me.

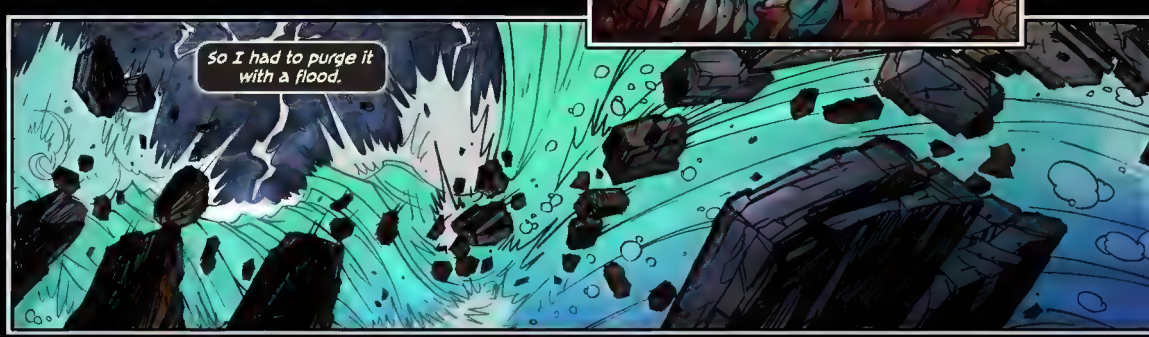

I need to show you in a way you'll understand.
This is you. You were ten weren't you? The last time when you actually felt safe.
And then... BANG! Your innocence was burnt away.
How about this? The moment you first saw Wanda in her wedding dress?
You told yourself she was perfect. And for one day, at least... you believed in me.
HUSH LITTLE BABY, DON'T SAY A WORD... PAPA'S GONNA BUY YOU A MOCKINGBIRD...
Later you talked about wanting children. She especially wanted them. Remember how shocked you were when she told you she was pregnant? Or how you felt when you heard your son's heartbeat for the first time.
You sang often to your unborn child, didn't you?
NO... DON'T
Even on that day when your baby's heartbeat slowed down to nothing. The day you and Wanda found out you'd lost him.
And then, he wasn't anything at all.

Later you were murdered by your friend.
All of it a lie, carefully calculated.
At your funeral your killer stood at Wanda's side. Comforting her.
All of it a lie, carefully calculated.
But did it matter? Because you had already agreed to become Malebolgia's Hellspawn. Giving him your soul in exchange for one more moment with Wanda.
All of it a lie, carefully calculated.
And this.
This is the moment you abandoned hope. Committing existential suicide and sending yourself here to limbo.
All because of a lie.

You didn't kill yourself because you thought it was a good idea. You killed yourself because someone manipulated you to do it.


THIS IS BULLSHIT!
Keep telling yourself that lie! What you've never understood is Hell runs way deeper than Malebolgia's realm. And they control all their soldiers, all the time. You're no exception. You're in limbo because they wanted you to be here. Because it would be easier for them if you weren't around.

They needed you gone! It's not the first time they've sought to control Earth. When they found out I'd chosen not to interfere any more, they sent their kind to Earth.
Demons, along with rogue angels, came to this planet.

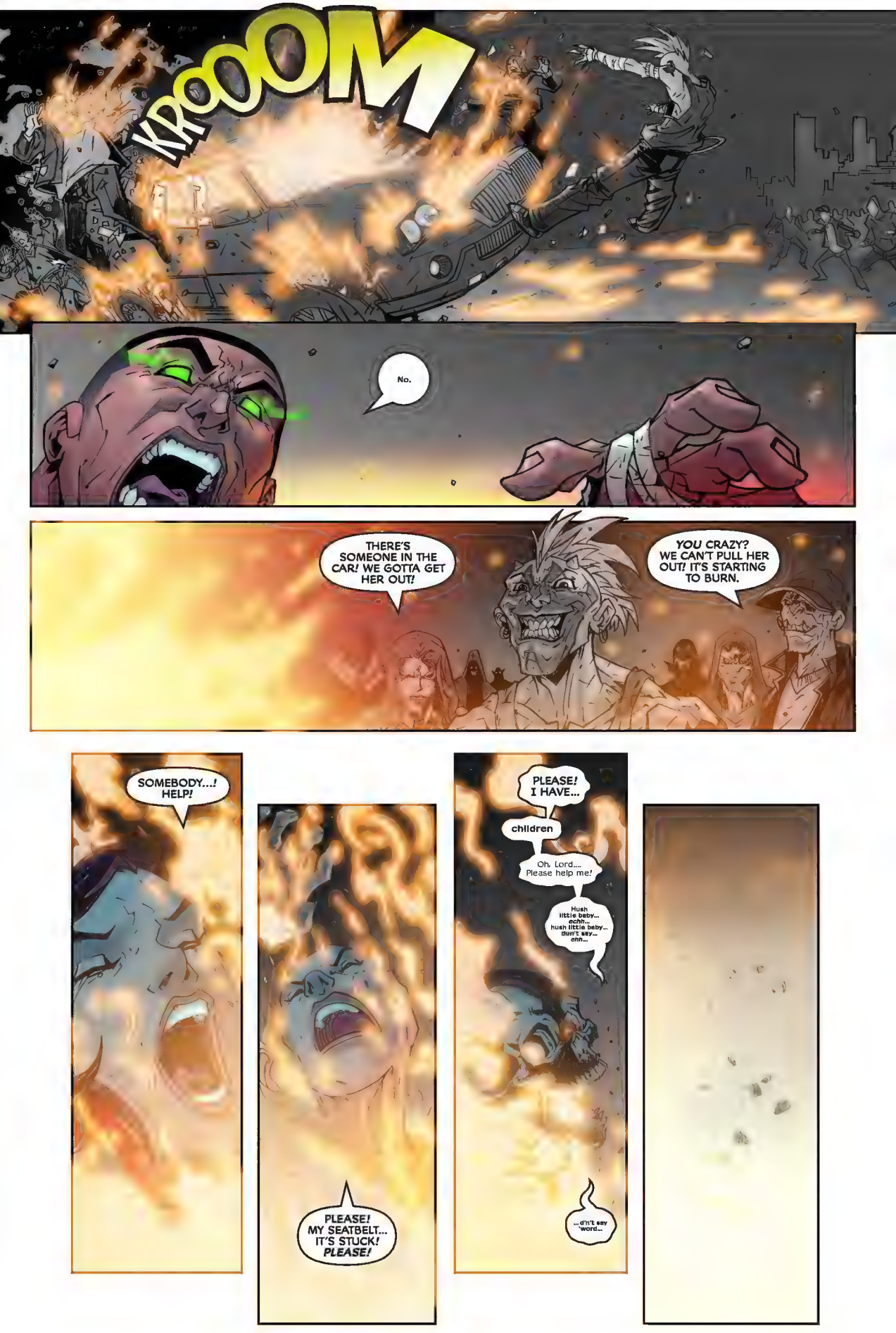

So I had to purge it with a flood.

I swore I wouldn't interfere, but I did that one time. I tried drowning them all so that I could start over again.
YOU DIDN'T PURGE THEM ALL, DID YOU?
No. Some survived.
They've been haunting your kind ever since.
It's why angels and demons fight over you. They're jealous. Because you determine your own fate. They want to take that from you.
Don't let them do that.
WHERE'RE WE GOING NOW?
To a place you need. A place everyone needs-- and the reason any good person does anything.
Wanda ...?

I... DON'T... REMEMBER...
Because it just happened. Two days ago, as she was driving to a charity hospital event.
It was one bad turn. Wanda was just in the wrong place at the wrong time.
Emotions were high that night. Everywhere on the streets it was chaotic. Rage took over because certain groups brought their own agitators.
No one knew anyone. People began pushing and shoving. Wanda found herself going the wrong way down a one-way street...
STOP PROFILING
I. CAN'T. BREATHE
HANDS UP DON'T SHOOT
Then it happened. Someone pulled a trigger. A boy, with his back to the shooter, his arms in the air, is gunned down.
And nobody could really say how it happened.

And thousands of you ask the same question you always do: how could I, God, let this happen? They wonder... where's my compassion? My grace at that moment?
POWER TO THE PEOPLE
Maybe the coroner takes just a little too long to move the body from the sidewalk.
The cops try keeping the peace while they figure out what really went down.
But everyone has already made up their minds by then. They all think they know the end of this story and why it happened. Nobody does.
The end is always a beginning. A beginning of something worse.
KILL THE SYSTEM
And somebody-- somewhere-- will benefit from this particular end.
WE CAN'T BREATHE

MOVE BACK! ALL OF YOU!
YOU PIGS! YOU SHOT THAT BOY FOR NOTHING!
It was one wrong turn, Al. Just one turn.
But someone was pulling the strings-- someone who was taking advantage of the fact you were gone.
YOU TRYING TO RUN US DOWN, BITCH?! YOU ONE OF THEM? YOU WORKING FOR THEM?!
CRASH
They stood to benefit. They wanted you to kill yourself so you couldn't be there that night.


KROOOOM
No.
THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE CAR! WE GOTTA GET HER OUT!
YOU CRAZY? WE CAN'T PULL HER OUT! IT'S STARTING TO BURN.
SOMEBODY...! HELP!
PLEASE! MY SEATBELT... IT'S STUCK! PLEASE!
PLEASE! I HAVE...
children
Oh, Lord.... Please help me!
Hush little baby... ochh... hush little baby... don't say... ohh...
...d'n't say 'word...

WANDA! NO!
SHE WAS CALLING FOR YOU! FOR YOUR HELP! AND YOU DID NOTHING?
YOU F*CKING DID NOTHING!??
YOU SICK BASTARD.
I didn't answer her. I didn't help her. But neither did you. We were both absent that day. Exactly the way they wanted it.
The way they planned it.

So you have two choices: you can lament about what's already done, or you can do something to fix it. She's dead. I'm sorry about that.
But you need to make a decision about whether you're going to let them continue to do this to others.
YOU PIECE OF SHIT! YOU ABANDONED HER WHEN YOU COULD HAVE HELPED. YOU COULD HAVE PREVENTED THIS! WHERE IS SHE? TELL ME WHERE SHE IS!
We both abandoned her. And you're right... she's dead because of that! But her soul isn't. And it chose to be with her unborn child.
WHERE?!
To Hell. To find her unborn baby.
They stole the soul of your unborn child--those that want to hurt you. That's where Wanda is.
SHE WAS DYING... AND SHE THOUGHT OF HIM?
Yes. And now she's trapped... lost. Confused. I'm protecting them both as best I can but I can't go there.
Only YOU can.

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS... NOW?
Because I can't interfere. But I can't afford not to. Not anymore.
I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP.
Yes, you do.
And you'll need even more power. This sword will help you. Take it. And use it against those spreading the disease called evil. Make them feel your wrath!
And make them feel the same pain they've inflicted upon you all this time.
Find that evil and you'll find Wanda and your unborn child.
AND IF I DON'T BELIEVE ANY OF THIS? OR YOU?
That's your choice... your free will.
Sadly, you humans don't always make the right choices.

...hush
little baby...
...don't say
a word...

Take my sword of the spirit, for it is my word.
Don't go back as my champion-- go back as their champion, Al.
Be the champion of the people, of free will and self determination.
Be great.
Be strong.

Be SPAWN!

SPAWN #251 COVER

HUMANS. EVERY DAY WE EXIST IS AN EXPERIMENT.
SOMETIMES THAT EXPERIMENT WORKS THE WAY IT WAS INTENDED.
OTHER TIMES, IT DEVIATES FROM THAT COURSE. BUT THROUGH IT ALL, 'THE STRONG SURVIVE.' AND THE STRONGER YOU ARE, THE BETTER CHANCE OF SURVIVAL.
THE THING IS, NO MATTER HOW BIG YOU MIGHT BE, OR HOW STRONG YOU ARE...
THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEONE STRONGER THAN YOU ARE.

AND IF THAT SOMEONE DECIDES TO BECOME YOUR ENEMY, BECAUSE THEY THINK YOU HAVE WRONGED THEM...TO HUMILIATE THEM...THEY WILL STOP AT NOTHING TO PROVE THEY ARE YOUR SUPERIOR ON EVERY LEVEL..
YET THE STRONGEST CAN, AT TIMES, BE COWARDS. CHOOSING INSTEAD TO TAKE THEIR EMOTIONS OUT ON THE WEAKEST, MOST INNOCENT AROUND THEM. HOPING THOSE ATTACKS WILL ENRAGE THEIR ACTUAL ENEMY.
SO IF A WOMAN... A WIFE NEEDS TO PAY THE PRICE FOR HER HUSBAND, SO BE IT! AND EVEN IF THAT WOMAN WAS CARRYING AN UNBORN CHILD AT THE TIME. IT DOESN'T MATTER. THE ONLY THING THAT DOES, IS GETTING THE ATTENTION OF YOUR ENEMY.
BUT NOT EVERY ONE OF YOUR ENEMIES COWER. THERE ARE SOME WHO WILL RISE AND DEFY YOU. WHO WILL FIGHT BACK TO HELP PROTECT THEIR LOVED ONES WITH EVERY OUNCE OF POWER THEY HAVE. BECAUSE THE DAY THEY ALLOW HARM TO THOSE THEY LOVE MOST...
...THEY KNOW WHAT DAY THAT IS!

A
COLD day in
HELL

Todd McFarlane
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT OLD MAN? GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE... BEFORE YOU GET HURT.
YOU DEAF? I SAID YOU'D BETTER BE LEAVING, NOW.
THE OTHER DAY-- WERE ANY OF YOU INVOLVED WITH THAT RIOT?
WHEN I'M DONE. JUST LOOKING FOR A FEW ANSWERS.
WE DON'T TALK TO COPS.
NOT ASKING YOU TO. I WANT YOU TO TALK TO ME.
I HEARD THE RIOTS FLOODED TO THESE STREETS THE OTHER NIGHT? I WONDER IF YOU SAW A CAR?
DUDE, WE SAW LOTS OF CARS. POLICE CARS. GHOST CARS. PEOPLE WHO DON'T BELONG AROUND HERE DRIVING UP IN THEIR CARS. WE HAD A BUNCH OF THOSE PEOPLE--THE ONES THAT DON'T BELONG. YOU MIGHT OF HEARD, THEY SHOT A BOY. STRAIGHT IN THE BACK. KILLED HIM FOR DOING NOTHING!
WHY WOULD THEY DO THAT?
YOU TELL ME?! AFTER THAT CRAZY BUG INVASION... THE COPS AND MILITARY DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE US ALONE. WE WERE JUST LETTING THEM KNOW WE WANTED OUR HOMES BACK. THEY DON'T GET TO TELL US WHERE WE GO AND WHERE TO LIVE.*
*See issues 249 and 250—Todd.
I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT.
A CAR WAS BURNT. IT HAD A WOMAN INSIDE. I'M LOOKING FOR THOSE THAT SET THE FIRE.

WHY WOULD WE SNITCH 'EM OUT TO YOU?
BECAUSE I'M GUESSING THERE WERE A FEW OF THOSE TYPES THAT DIDN'T BELONG HERE. AND I'M ALSO GUESSING WHAT THEY DID ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE AROUND HERE FOR YOU. FOR EVERYONE THAT LIVES HERE. SO WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE TO PAY THE PRICE TO THE COPS FOR THEIR ACTIONS.
YOU HELP ME AND I'LL MAKE SURE THAT GANG NEVER STEPS FOOT IN THESE STREETS AGAIN.
WHAT MAKES *YOU* SUCH A BADASS?

SAME THING THAT MAKES YOU ONE...ANGER. AT THOSE ALWAYS TRYING TO CONTROL WHAT WE DO.
CHECK DOWN THE STREET. NEAR JIMMY'S POOL HALL.

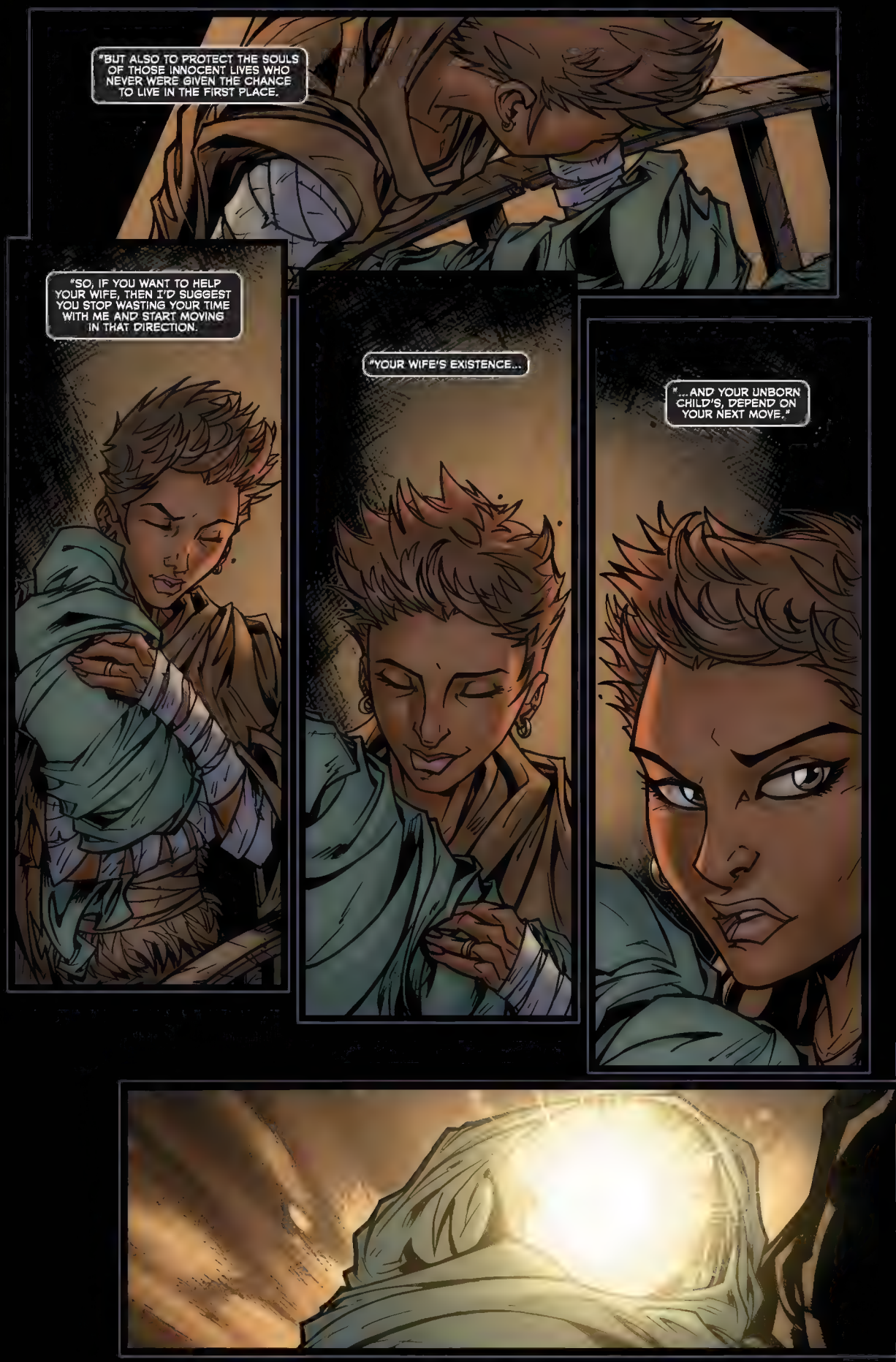
I SAW A FEW OF THEM STILL HANGING NEAR THERE. YOU WANT TO TAKE YOUR ANGER OUT ON THEM, BE MY GUEST.
'CAUSE MY BOY GOT SHOT AND THAT'S WHAT I'M CONCERNED ABOUT. HE WAS JUST WALKING HOME. MINDING HIS OWN BUSINESS. INSTEAD THEY POPPED HIM AND LEFT HIM BLEEDING IN THE STREETS LIKE AN ANIMAL. AND IF THEY DON'T WATCH OUT, WE GOIN' RIOT AGAIN. ONLY THIS TIME, THE COPS ARE GOING TO BE THE ONES WHO'RE AFRAID.

WE WANT EVERYONE OUT OF HERE. THE NEWS PEOPLE, THE DEMONSTRATORS THAT GOT BUSED IN. ALL OF THEM. YOU CAN EVEN TAKE THAT WHITE CRACKER AND HIS DOG WITH YOU.
HE DEFINITELY DON'T BELONG HERE.
WHAT...
...the hell?

Madureira's
DELI
THE DOG. IT'S THE SAME ONE HE SAW IN THE 'BLACK.' THE SAME ONE THAT TOLD HIM WANDA WAS DEAD.
WHEN TOLD OF WANDA'S DEATH, A HUNDRED QUESTIONS RACED THROUGH AL'S MIND. BUT INSTEAD OF ASKING THEM, HE REMAINED SILENT. STOIC. BUT NOW, GIVEN TIME TO GET PAST HIS EMOTIONS, HE THINKS THIS COULD BE ANOTHER CHANCE TO ASK THEM.
WHETHER THOSE STALKING HIM WANT TO LISTEN OR NOT.
YOU...! STOP!
WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
BECAUSE I'M SUPPOSED TO. YOU ALREADY KNOW THAT. SO, STOP PRETENDING YOU'RE SURPRISED. SHE TOLD YOU I'D BE COMING.
THAT YOU MIGHT NEED MY HELP.
* See Spawn: Resurrection #1 — Todd

I DON'T WANT HELP.
SHE TOLD ME THAT TOO.
WHO'S SHE?
GOD.
OF COURSE.
SHE SAID YOU TWO HAD A CONVERSATION.*
WHAT THE F*CK DO YOU WANT?
LIKE I SAID, I'M HERE TO HELP. YOU'VE BEEN GONE AWHILE, AND GOD THOUGHT YOU COULD USE A HELPING HAND GETTING REINTEGRATED. BUT WE NEED TO DO IT CAREFULLY.
THE FEWER ENEMIES WHO KNOW YOU'RE BACK, THE BETTER.
*See SPAWN: Resurrection #1— Todd
I ALREADY KNOW THAT! BUT I'M HOPING A FEW DO FIND OUT BECAUSE I'VE GOT A LOT OF THINGS I'D LIKE TO GET OFF MY CHEST. STARTING WITH... WHO TOOK MY WIFE? AND WHERE IS SHE? IF YOU DON'T HELP ME OUT WITH THOSE TWO QUESTIONS, I'LL ASSUME YOU'RE AN ENEMY, TOO.
I DON'T KNOW.
I SWEAR! I DON'T KNOW! I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KNOW!...
"GOD SAID SHE WAS SAFE, BUT DIDN'T KNOW FOR HOW LONG. HEAVEN HAS SOME POWERS THAT STILL WORK IN HELL, BUT THEY DON'T LAST FOREVER. OVER TIME IT ERODES. WE WERE HOPING THAT WHEN SHE DIED, YOUR WIFE WOULD FALL TO OUR SIDE. SHE DIDN'T.
"AND GOD CAN'T INTERFERE. YOU WERE TOLD THAT!"

"IT'S UP TO YOU, NOT MY GOD, TO SAVE YOUR WIFE.
"SHE AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD'S SOUL HAVE BEEN HIDDEN AWAY IN THE DARKNESS--AWAY FROM THE OTHER SOULS. WE DON'T KNOW WHERE OR THROUGH WHAT BARRIERS SHE'S BEEN TAKEN. WE'VE NEVER HAD THAT KNOWLEDGE ABOUT ANY OF THEIR SOULS.
"BUT WE DO KNOW THAT WHEN GOD ANOINTS A PERSON BEFORE THEY DIE, THEIR SOUL CAN BE PROTECTED, FOR A TIME, FROM HELL'S SADISTIC TORTURE.
"YOUR WIFE WAS ONE OF THOSE FEW GOD ANOINTED BECAUSE HEAVEN KNEW THAT THERE WOULD COME A DAY WHEN ONE OF HELL'S VERY OWN WOULD RISE AGAINST SATAN HIMSELF.
"AND THE BEST WAY TO BE ABLE TO EMPOWER THAT PERSON WOULD BE TO PROTECT THAT PERSON'S LOVED ONES FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.
"NOT ONLY TO PROTECT THE SOULS OF THOSE WHO ONCE LIVED..."

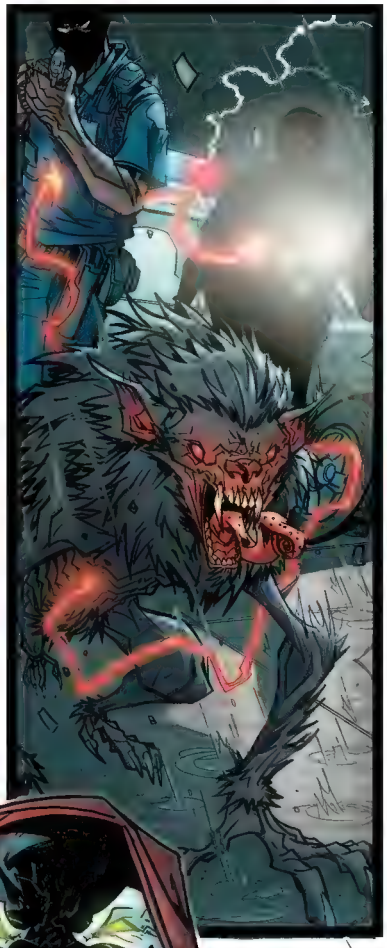

"BUT ALSO TO PROTECT THE SOULS OF THOSE INNOCENT LIVES WHO NEVER WERE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO LIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
"SO, IF YOU WANT TO HELP YOUR WIFE, THEN I'D SUGGEST YOU STOP WASTING YOUR TIME WITH ME AND START MOVING IN THAT DIRECTION.
"YOUR WIFE'S EXISTENCE...
"...AND YOUR UNBORN CHILD'S, DEPEND ON YOUR NEXT MOVE."

DO WHATEVER YOU HAVE TO DO BY YOURSELF. DO EVERYTHING FOR ALL I CARE. MY JOB IS TO BE NEARBY IN CASE YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND.
YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE IT.
BUT I FOLLOW GOD'S ORDERS, NOT YOURS.
HER? NO. SHE'S JUST A STRAY I PICKED UP, WANDERING THE STREETS. BUT THERE IS SOMETHING I NEED TO GIVE YOU BEFORE I GO...
AND YOUR DOG IS GOD?
IT'S A LITTLE FINANCIAL HELP AND SOME OTHER CONTACTS IN CASE YOU AND I GET SEPARATED.
FREEZE RIGHT THERE, ASSHOLES!

DON'T LISTEN TO THEM, SIMMONS. THEY'RE DEMONS.
NO SHIT.
AND DUMB ONES TOO, IF THEY THINK GUNS ARE GOING TO PROTECT THEM.

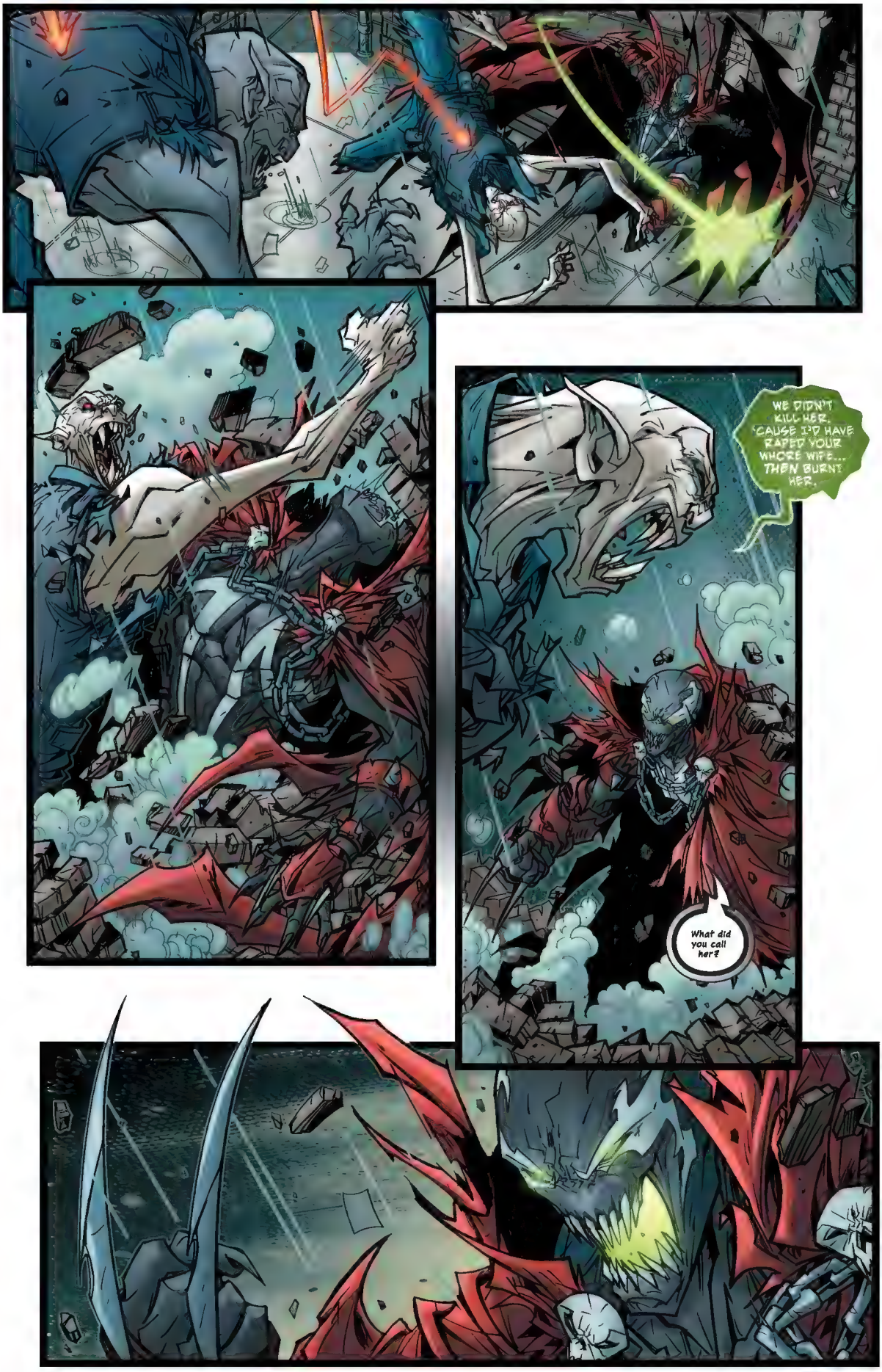
OH, WE'VE GOT MORE THAN GUN POWER ON OUR SIDE. *LOTS* MORE.

THEN *SHOW ME!* IT'S BEEN A *LONG TIME* SINCE I'VE BEEN IN A GOOD FIGHT.



AL, I'M NOT EQUIPPED TO HELP RIGHT NOW.
HOW CONVENIENT FOR YOU...
WHAT THE HELL'S YOUR NAME ANYWAY?
MIKE.
OKAY, MIKE. YOU RUN ALONG. AND I HOPE WE DON'T MEET AGAIN.

IT'S JUST YOU AND ME.
YOUR MOVE.
KKKKKHHAA
AND YOU'D BETTER PRAY YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MY WIFE'S DEATH.


WE DIDN'T KILL HER. 'CAUSE I'D HAVE RAPED YOUR WHORE WIFE... THEN BURNT HER.
What did you call her?

WHAT DID YOU SAY!?
SO YOU DO KNOW SOMETHING?
THEN TWO OF YOU DIE TONIGHT. THE LAST ONE TALKS.

YOUR MORE AND OUR BABY. THEY'RE OURS!
YOU LAUGHED AT OUR RUSH AND YOU BROUGHT A SWORD?
EXACTLY.
YYAAAAA

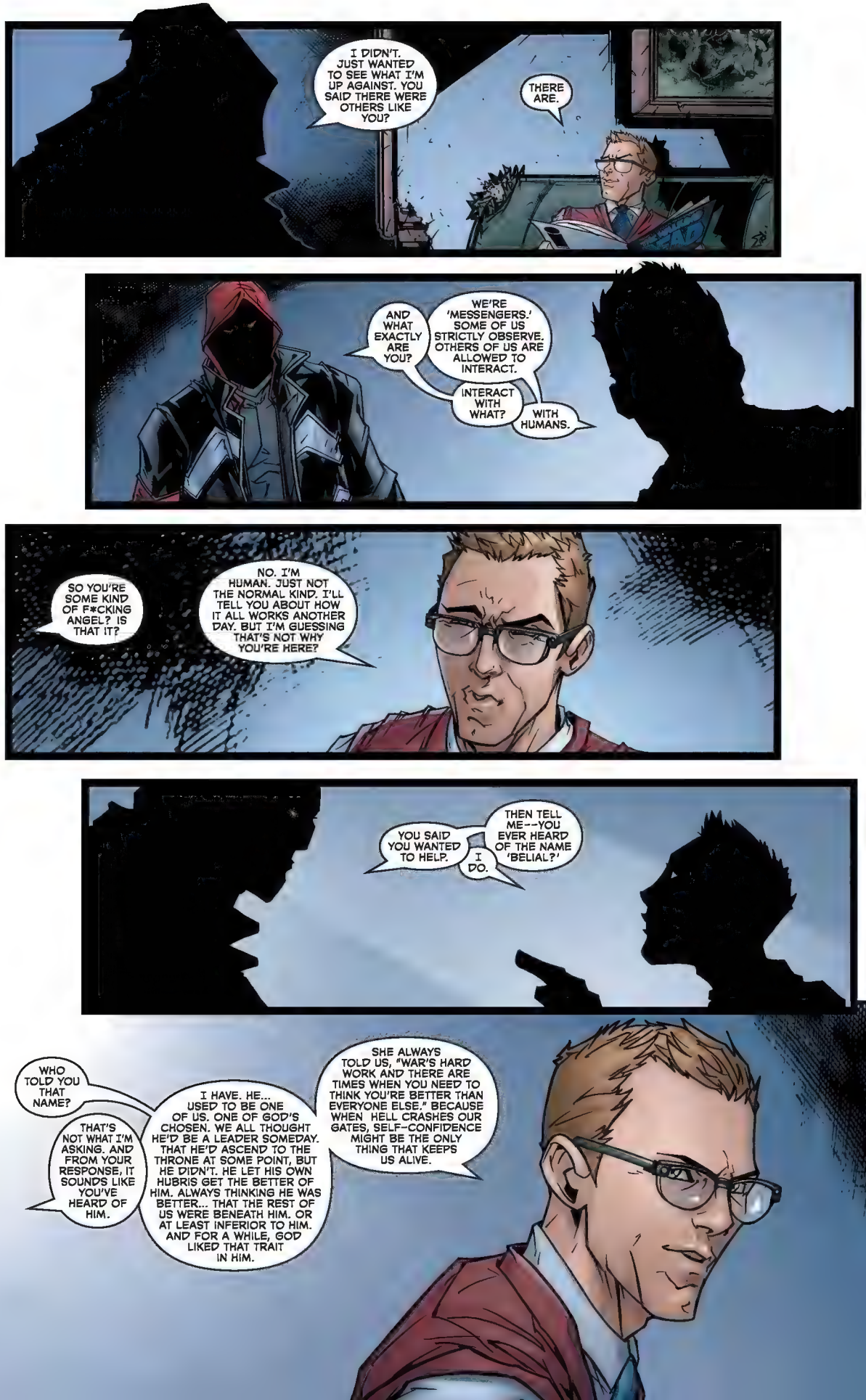
NOW... WHO WANTS TO BE NEXT AND WHO WANTS TO BE LAST?
HUHH HUHH HUHH HUHH
GRUUAAAAWW
CHOMP
GNHHH!
I'M DONE PLAYING!

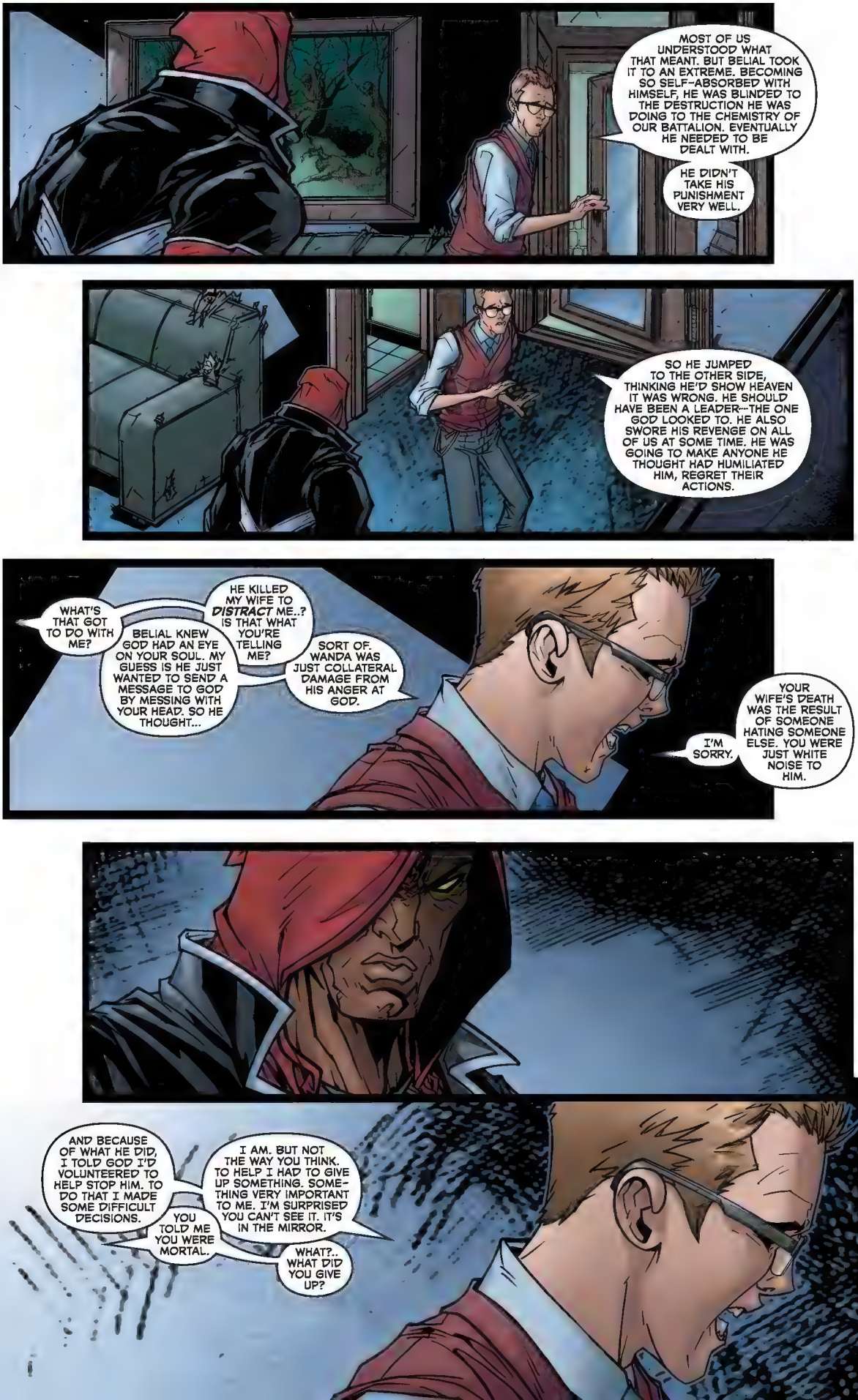
SLITK
WHERE'S MY WIFE?
DR. WHITE SAID YOU'D NEVER...
HE WAS WRONG!
EEYAAA
SO... YOU HAVE A MASTER? DOES HE KNOW WHERE MY WIFE IS?

DOES HE KNOW WHERE MY WIFE IS?
DOES HE KNOW WHERE MY WIFE IS?
DOES HE?
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
BELIAL.

HE'LL TEAR YOU IN HALF!
I HOPE HE TRIES.
THOUGH YOU'LL NEVER HEAR ABOUT IT.
!!!YAAHHHHHHHHHH

An hour later.

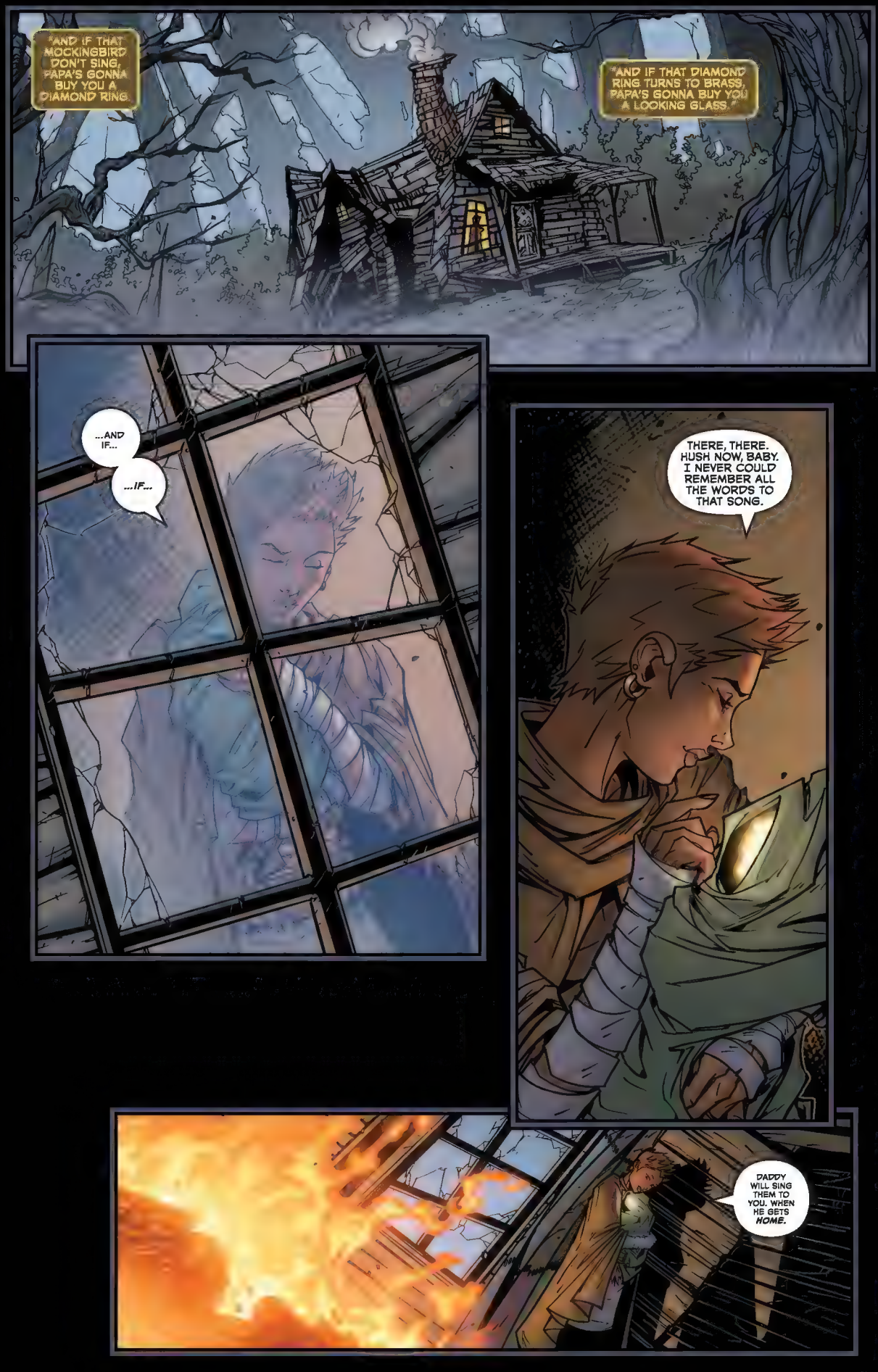

I DIDN'T. JUST WANTED TO SEE WHAT I'M UP AGAINST. YOU SAID THERE WERE OTHERS LIKE YOU?
THERE ARE.
AND WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU?
WE'RE 'MESSENGERS.' SOME OF US STRICTLY OBSERVE. OTHERS OF US ARE ALLOWED TO INTERACT.
INTERACT WITH WHAT?
WITH HUMANS.
SO YOU'RE SOME KIND OF F*CKING ANGEL? IS THAT IT?
NO. I'M HUMAN. JUST NOT THE NORMAL KIND. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HOW IT ALL WORKS ANOTHER DAY. BUT I'M GUESSING THAT'S NOT WHY YOU'RE HERE?
YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO HELP.
I DO.
THEN TELL ME--YOU EVER HEARD OF THE NAME 'BELIAL?'
WHO TOLD YOU THAT NAME?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M ASKING. AND FROM YOUR RESPONSE, IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE HEARD OF HIM.
I HAVE. HE... USED TO BE ONE OF US. ONE OF GOD'S CHOSEN. WE ALL THOUGHT HE'D BE A LEADER SOMEDAY. THAT HE'D ASCEND TO THE THRONE AT SOME POINT, BUT HE DIDN'T. HE LET HIS OWN HUBRIS GET THE BETTER OF HIM. ALWAYS THINKING HE WAS BETTER... THAT THE REST OF US WERE BENEATH HIM. OR AT LEAST INFERIOR TO HIM. AND FOR A WHILE, GOD LIKED THAT TRAIT IN HIM.
SHE ALWAYS TOLD US, "WAR'S HARD WORK AND THERE ARE TIMES WHEN YOU NEED TO THINK YOU'RE BETTER THAN EVERYONE ELSE." BECAUSE WHEN HELL CRASHES OUR GATES, SELF-CONFIDENCE MIGHT BE THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS US ALIVE.


MOST OF US UNDERSTOOD WHAT THAT MEANT. BUT BELIAL TOOK IT TO AN EXTREME. BECOMING SO SELF-ABSORBED WITH HIMSELF, HE WAS BLINDED TO THE DESTRUCTION HE WAS DOING TO THE CHEMISTRY OF OUR BATTALION. EVENTUALLY HE NEEDED TO BE DEALT WITH.
HE DIDN'T TAKE HIS PUNISHMENT VERY WELL.
SO HE JUMPED TO THE OTHER SIDE, THINKING HE'D SHOW HEAVEN IT WAS WRONG. HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN A LEADER--THE ONE GOD LOOKED TO. HE ALSO SWORE HIS REVENGE ON ALL OF US AT SOME TIME. HE WAS GOING TO MAKE ANYONE HE THOUGHT HAD HUMILIATED HIM, REGRET THEIR ACTIONS.
WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH ME?
BELIAL KNEW GOD HAD AN EYE ON YOUR SOUL. MY GUESS IS HE JUST WANTED TO SEND A MESSAGE TO GOD BY MESSING WITH YOUR HEAD. SO HE THOUGHT...
HE KILLED MY WIFE TO *DISTRACT* ME..? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME?
SORT OF. WANDA WAS JUST COLLATERAL DAMAGE FROM HIS ANGER AT GOD.
I'M SORRY.
YOUR WIFE'S DEATH WAS THE RESULT OF SOMEONE HATING SOMEONE ELSE. YOU WERE JUST WHITE NOISE TO HIM.
AND BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID, I TOLD GOD I'D VOLUNTEERED TO HELP STOP HIM. TO DO THAT I MADE SOME DIFFICULT DECISIONS.
YOU TOLD ME YOU WERE MORTAL.
I AM. BUT NOT THE WAY YOU THINK. TO HELP I HAD TO GIVE UP SOMETHING. SOMETHING VERY IMPORTANT TO ME. I'M SURPRISED YOU CAN'T SEE IT. IT'S IN THE MIRROR.
WHAT?.. WHAT DID YOU GIVE UP?

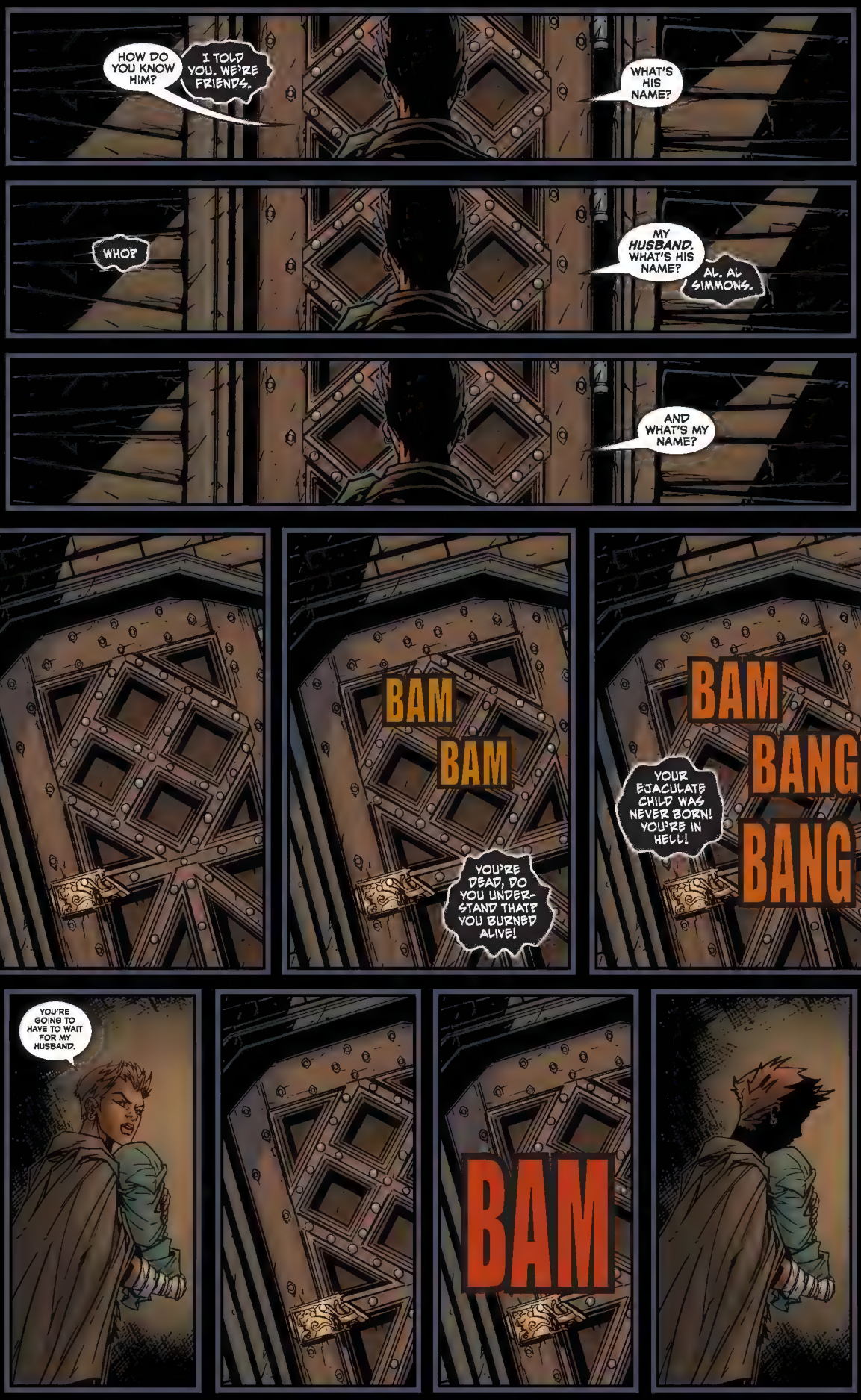
EVERYTHING!
I HAD TO GIVE UP EVERYTHING I EVER WAS.

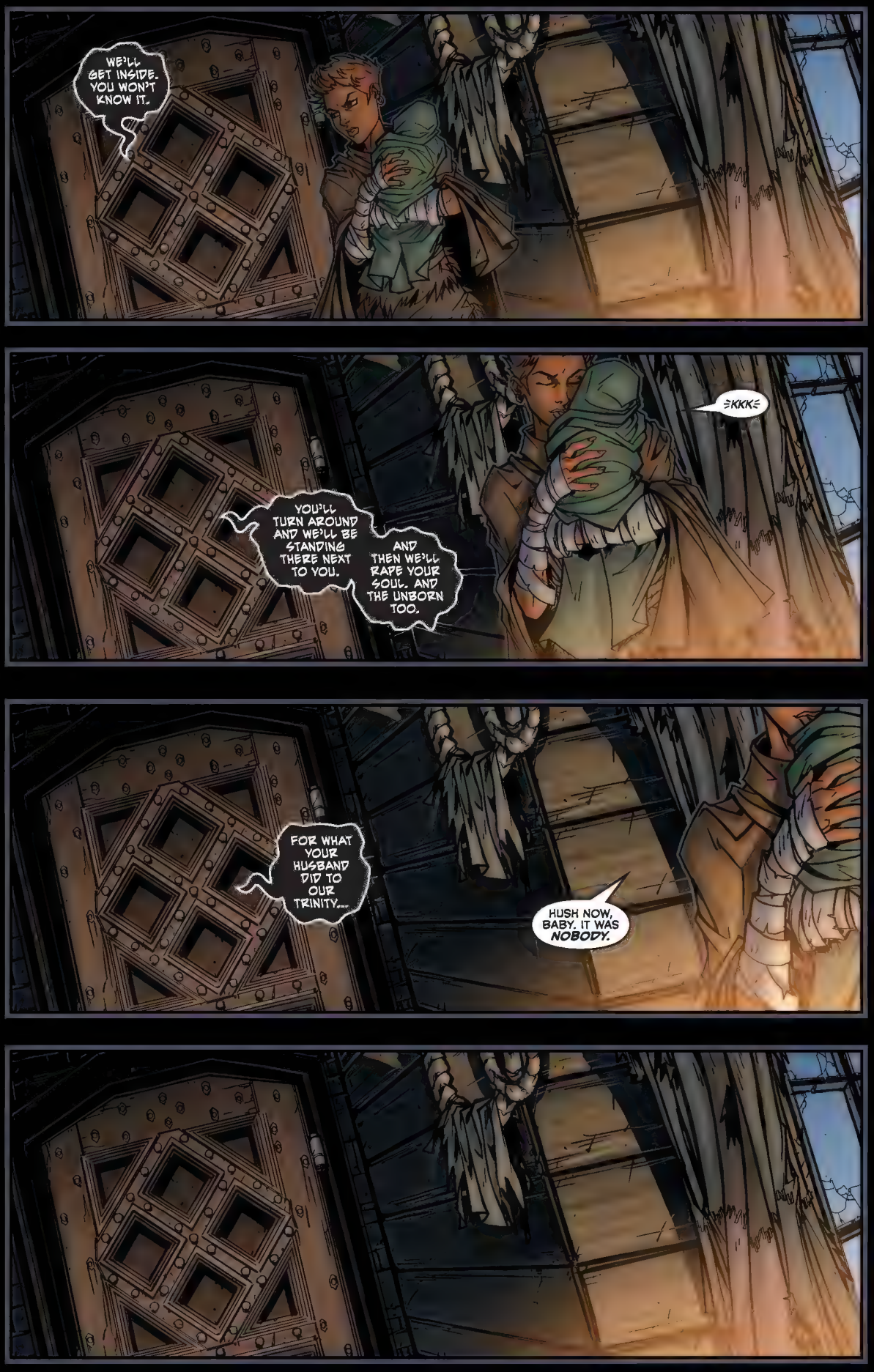
SPAWN #252, COVER

NNAAA--
AAAAH!
Shit.


"AND IF THAT MOCKINGBIRD DON'T SING, PAPA'S GONNA BUY YOU A DIAMOND RING.
"AND IF THAT DIAMOND RING TURNS TO BRASS, PAPA'S GONNA BUY YOU A LOOKING GLASS."
...AND IF...
...IF...
THERE, THERE. HUSH NOW, BABY. I NEVER COULD REMEMBER ALL THE WORDS TO THAT SONG.
DADDY WILL SING THEM TO YOU. WHEN HE GETS *HOME.*

THE WOLVES ARE ON THE MOVE AGAIN.
I HOPE DADDY CAN SEE WHERE HE'S GOING. IT'S BECOME SO DARK OUT THERE--
KNOK
KNOK
HELLO? IS SOMEONE THERE?
I'M A FRIEND OF YOUR HUSBAND. HE ASKED ME TO VISIT YOU. HE'S VERY CONCERNED.
YOU KNOW MY HUSBAND?
YES. WE'RE FRIENDS.
No.

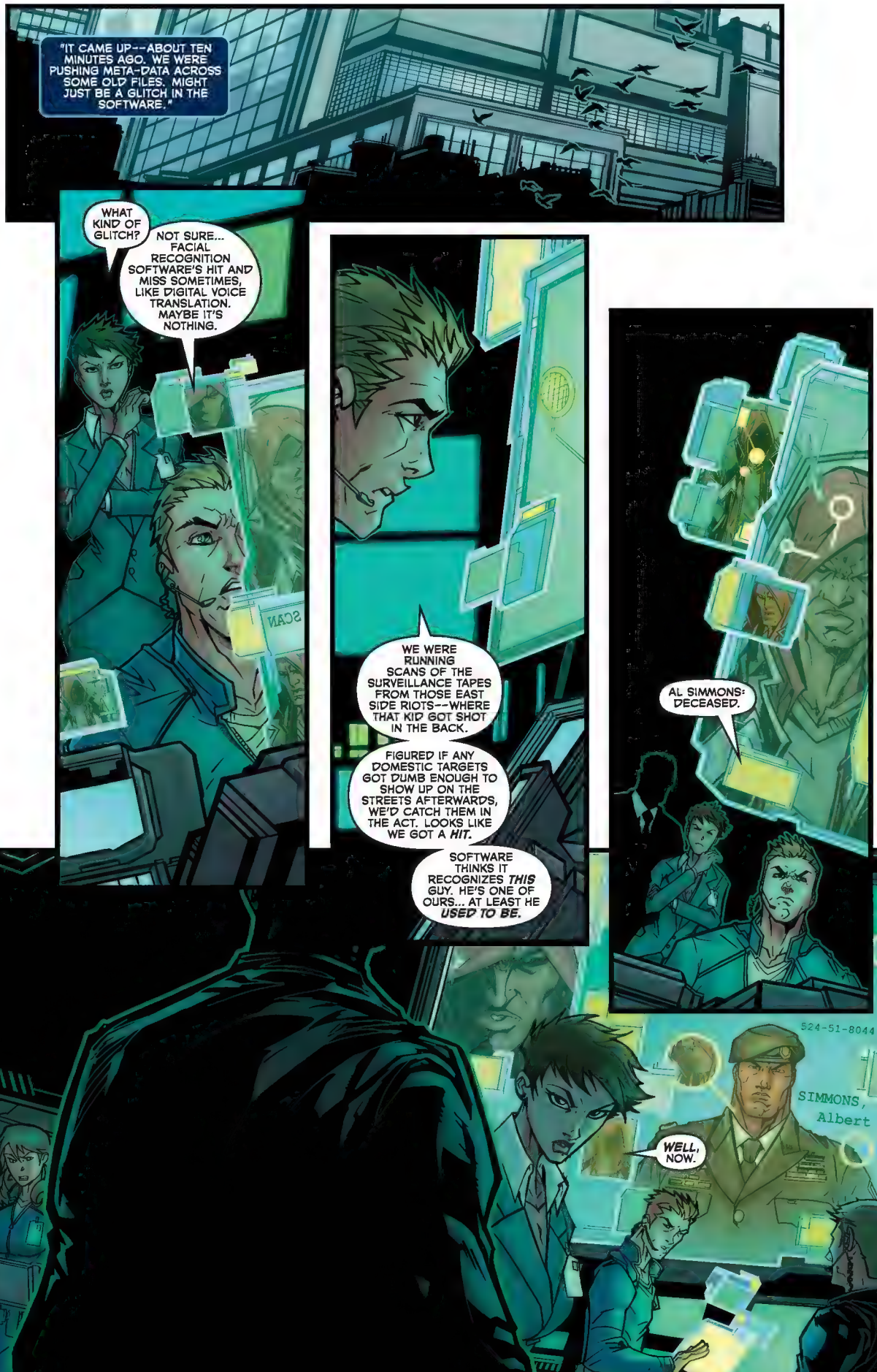

HOW DO YOU KNOW HIM?
I TOLD YOU. WE'RE FRIENDS.
WHAT'S HIS NAME?
WHO?
MY HUSBAND. WHAT'S HIS NAME?
AL. AL SIMMONS.
AND WHAT'S MY NAME?
BAM
BAM
YOU'RE DEAD, DO YOU UNDERSTAND THAT? YOU BURNED ALIVE!
BAM
BANG
BANG
YOUR EJACULATE CHILD WAS NEVER BORN! YOU'RE IN HELL!
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT FOR MY HUSBAND.
BAM

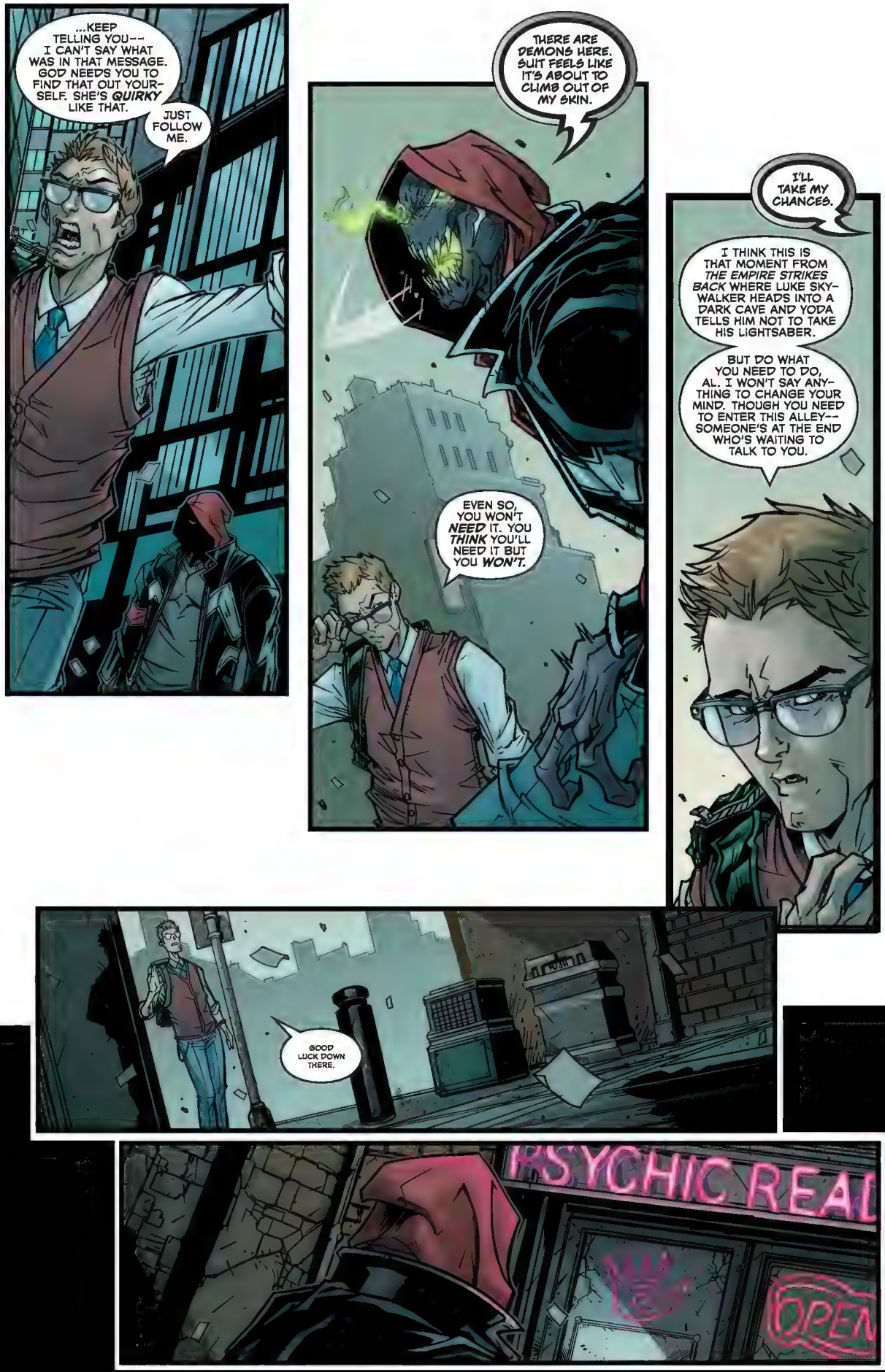

WE'LL GET INSIDE. YOU WON'T KNOW IT.
=KKK=
YOU'LL TURN AROUND AND WE'LL BE STANDING THERE NEXT TO YOU.
AND THEN WE'LL RAPE YOUR SOUL. AND THE UNBORN TOO.
FOR WHAT YOUR HUSBAND DID TO OUR TRINITY...
HUSH NOW, BABY. IT WAS NOBODY.

THE WOLVES...
THEY'RE ON THE MOVE.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
Tribune
I DON'T KNOW. IT'S SOMETHING I FELT COMPELLED TO SAY. I DO THAT A LOT.
KEEP IT TO YOURSELF NEXT TIME.
HEARD YOU HAD A BAD DREAM LAST NIGHT, BY THE WAY.
YOU SPYING ON ME, "MIKE?"
DON'T BE SO CYNICAL. I HEARD YOU CRY OUT WHEN I WENT TO USE THE TOILET. NOW BEAR WITH ME A SECOND...
EXCUSE ME, MISS. DO YOU HAVE A PASSWORD FOR THE INTERNET? I NEED TO DOWNLOAD A MESSAGE FROM GOD.

I THOUGHT WE WERE SUPPOSED TO BE INCON-SPICUOUS.
I'M STILL GETTING UP TO SPEED ON BEING MORTAL. NOW LET'S SEE...
...OKAY, HERE WE GO: "STAY ON PATH... YADDA YADDA... UNHOLY TRINITY... ETCETERA, ETCETERA..."
THERE'S SUPPOSED TO BE A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
THIS IS HOW YOU TWO COMMUNICATE? VIA EMAIL?
DON'T WORRY. IT'S ENCRYPTED.
GOOD FOR YOU.
I'M SORRY. GOD CAN BE VERY INEFFABLE AT TIMES. AH! HERE IT IS. OKAY. WE HAVE OUR FIRST COMMUNIQUÉ.
LET'S SEE NOW...
oh.
WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?
NOTHING.

WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE. GET UP NOW! I NEED YOU TO FOLLOW ME.
WHY?
WE CAN'T TALK HERE. TRUST ME.
TRUST YOU? ARE YOU F*CKING SERIOUS?
I CAN'T EXPLAIN NOW. JUST FOLLOW ME. WE HAVE TO GO.
THAT MESSAGE? WHAT DID IT SAY?
AL, I WANT YOU TO KNOW I'M SORRY.
I MEAN FOR WHAT HAPPENS TO YOU NEXT.


"IT CAME UP--ABOUT TEN MINUTES AGO. WE WERE PUSHING META-DATA ACROSS SOME OLD FILES. MIGHT JUST BE A GLITCH IN THE SOFTWARE."
WHAT KIND OF GLITCH?
NOT SURE... FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE'S HIT AND MISS SOMETIMES, LIKE DIGITAL VOICE TRANSLATION. MAYBE IT'S NOTHING.
WE WERE RUNNING SCANS OF THE SURVEILLANCE TAPES FROM THOSE EAST SIDE RIOTS--WHERE THAT KID GOT SHOT IN THE BACK.
FIGURED IF ANY DOMESTIC TARGETS GOT DUMB ENOUGH TO SHOW UP ON THE STREETS AFTERWARDS, WE'D CATCH THEM IN THE ACT. LOOKS LIKE WE GOT A HIT.
SOFTWARE THINKS IT RECOGNIZES THIS GUY. HE'S ONE OF OURS... AT LEAST HE USED TO BE.
AL SIMMONS: DECEASED.
524-51-8044
SIMMONS, Albert T.
WELL, NOW.


...KEEP TELLING YOU-- I CAN'T SAY WHAT WAS IN THAT MESSAGE. GOD NEEDS YOU TO FIND THAT OUT YOURSELF. SHE'S *QUIRKY* LIKE THAT.
JUST FOLLOW ME.
THERE ARE DEMONS HERE. SUIT FEELS LIKE IT'S ABOUT TO CLIMB OUT OF MY SKIN.
EVEN SO, YOU WON'T *NEED* IT. YOU *THINK* YOU'LL NEED IT BUT YOU *WON'T.*
I'LL TAKE MY CHANCES.
I THINK THIS IS THAT MOMENT FROM *THE EMPIRE STRIKES BACK* WHERE LUKE SKYWALKER HEADS INTO A DARK CAVE AND YODA TELLS HIM NOT TO TAKE HIS LIGHTSABER.
BUT DO WHAT YOU NEED TO DO, AL. I WON'T SAY ANYTHING TO CHANGE YOUR MIND. THOUGH YOU NEED TO ENTER THIS ALLEY-- SOMEONE'S AT THE END WHO'S WAITING TO TALK TO YOU.
GOOD LUCK DOWN THERE.
PUSH
PSYCHIC REAL
OPEN

WHO'S IN HERE?
WHO!?
HAAHHH... *HEHHS*... HEARD YOU COMING *MILES* AWAY, HELLSPAWN. YOU MAKE A LOT OF NOISE. SOME PROMINENT PEOPLE ARE VERY ANGRY YOU CAME BACK.
COME. TAKE A SEAT. MUCH TO DISCUSS.
I'VE SEEN YOU BEFORE...?
MAYBE.
HAVE A *QUESTION* FOR YOU. IT'S A QUESTION OF *INTENT.*
YOU THINK YOU HAVE *CANCER.* DO YOU GO TO THE DOCTOR TO FIND OUT FOR SURE? OR DO YOU STAY AWAY AND LIVE IN FEAR OF THE ANSWER?
I GO TO THE DOCTOR.
THEN I HAVE BAD *NEWS* FOR YOU.

MMH...
KILLED A LOT OF PEOPLE IN THE NAME OF YOUR COUNTRY. BACK WHEN YOU *LIVED.*
MISGUIDED. A TYPICAL AMERICAN JINGOIST.
I DON'T HAVE THE LUXURY OF *TIME.* SO, IF THIS ISN'T ABOUT WANDA, AND YOU'RE NOT HERE TO HELP ME *FIND* HER... YOU'RE MY *ENEMY.*
YOU'RE GUIDED BY YOUR FOOLISH IMPULSES.
THEN *DO IT!* TERMINATE MY EXISTENCE, IF YOU *CAN.*
ENOUGH! WHERE'S MY WIFE AND THE CHILD? SOMEONE KNOWS WHERE THEY'RE AT!
YOU *DREAMT* LAST NIGHT, DIDN'T YOU, HELLSPAWN?
WHAT--

ANCIENT HISTORY...
THIS DOESN'T MEAN A THING.

YOU MAKE MUCH NOISE FOR ONE TRYING TO REMAIN UNSEEN, MY FRIEND.
YOU'VE AGED WELL, I SEE, CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES. THOUGH I CONFESS I COULD NEVER FORGET A FACE LIKE YOURS.
THE QUESTION IS, DO YOU REMEMBER ME, "MISTER SIMMONS?"
I REMEMBER-- HOSSEIN MOHAMMEDIZADEH. HIGH-VALUE TARGET, WORKED FOR AL QAEDA DURING THE RUSSIAN OCCUPATION.
YOU WERE A STONE COLD KILLER. TAKING YOU OFF THE STREETS WAS A BLESSING.
SO YOU TOLD YOURSELF. IT MUST HAVE MADE YOUR JOB A LOT EASIER, "MISTER SIMMONS," TO HAVE WORKED WITH SUCH MORALITY IN YOUR CORNER.
OVER THERE! THAT'S HIM!
DON'T MOVE! YOU F*CKING RESIST, YOU'RE A DEAD MAN!
WOOSH
WAIT--

THROW HIM IN THE TRUNK!
"NOW YOU KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE. THIS IS ABOUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE YOU KILLED WORKING FOR THE AGENCY.
"YOU SERVED SPECIAL INTERESTS BEFORE YOU SERVED YOUR COUNTRY.
"THINK ABOUT ALL THOSE PEOPLE YOU THREW INTO A VAN IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT. HOW MANY OF THEM DIDN'T COME BACK?
"MOST OF THOSE 'HIGH-VALUE' TARGETS WERE ABOUT AS CONNECTED TO ENEMY INTERESTS AS YOU WERE TO THE BOY SCOUTS.
SIMMONS
"BETTER TO TURN A BLIND EYE. BECAUSE GOOD SOLDIERS NEVER QUESTION ORDERS.
"THAT'S WHAT YOU *TOLD* YOURSELF EVEN AS THE QUESTIONS FLOODED ALL OVER YOUR GUILTY CONSCIENCE."

YOU HAD QUITE A THING GOING FOR YOURSELF, "MISTER SIMMONS." THE ONLY PEOPLE YOU AND YOUR COHORT ANSWERED TO WERE BEING BEATEN TO A BLOODY PULP IN A CHAIR.
I RAN A FRUIT AND VEGETABLE STALL IN THAT MARKETPLACE. BUT YOU NEEDED A SCAPEGOAT FOR THE ATTACK. AND SO YOU CHOSE ME.
YOU KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT, SHITBAG... SHHKK... IT WON'T ALTER THE FACT YOU SET THAT BOMB OFF AND KILLED TWENTY-FIVE PEOPLE.
THE ARGUMENT ISN'T WITH ME, MY FRIEND. IT'S WITH YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE. YOU AND YOUR CIA ASSOCIATES ALWAYS SUSPECTED THE REAL TRUTH.
"THE SOMALI POLICE NEEDED A SCAPEGOAT FOR ONE OF THEIR F*CK-UPS. YOU HANDED HIM OVER AS A SUSPECT IN A DRUG DEAL. EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW THEY'D TAKE HIM A HUNDRED YARDS DOWN THE ROAD AND SHOOT HIM IN THE HEAD.
"JUST LIKE YOU KNEW ABOUT YOUR OWN CIA SECRETARY, KENDRA BOOTHE. BRASS SAID SHE WAS HANDING SECRETS TO THE RUSSIANS.
"BUT EVERYONE KNEW SHE WAS SUCKING A SENATOR'S DICK AND HE SIMPLY WANTED HER OUT OF THE WAY.
"THE BOSNIAN, BAJRAMOVIC... YOU PRETENDED HE WAS CONNECTED TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE. HE SWALLOWED HALF AN OCEAN IN THAT INTERROGATION ROOM BEFORE HIS HEART GAVE OUT.

THAT MAN WHO SET OFF THAT BOMB WAS YOUR *OWN* INTERPRETER.
BAM!
"CORPORAL TRAVIS JOHNSON--ONE OF YOUR OWN. YOU KNEW THOSE CHARGES OF SELLING DATA TO THE CHINESE WERE BOGUS.
"BUT SOMEONE NEEDED TO FILL THE QUOTA. EVEN SOMEONE WHO LATER HUNG HIMSELF IN HIS OWN CELL WITH A BELT THAT YOU "FORGOT" TO REMOVE FROM HIS WAISTBAND."
"BUT THE WHOLE THING WAS JUST A WAY TO COVER YOUR OWN ASS BECAUSE PEOPLE WERE ASKING WHY YOU HADN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS ON THE CASE.

THOSE INNOCENT PEOPLE ARE NOT THE WHOLE STORY.
THERE'S MORE.
DO YOU REMEMBER ME?
I REMEMBER. YOU'RE THAT COLOMBIAN GRANDMOTHER.
AND I WAS FOLLOWING ORDERS. SO, IF IT'S GUILT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR, YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH.
DON'T EVEN RECOGNIZE HOW YOU CARRY YOUR OWN GUILT. BUT I DO.
YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE WANTED MY GRANDSON BECAUSE HE WAS TIED TO THE CARTEL. BUT I WASN'T.
BUT THAT DIDN'T MATTER DID IT? YOU TOOK ME TO THAT BARN ANYWAY. AND FOR TWO DAYS YOU WATCHED AS YOUR ASSOCIATE, CUTTER, TORTURED ME FOR INFORMATION YOU KNEW I NEVER HAD.

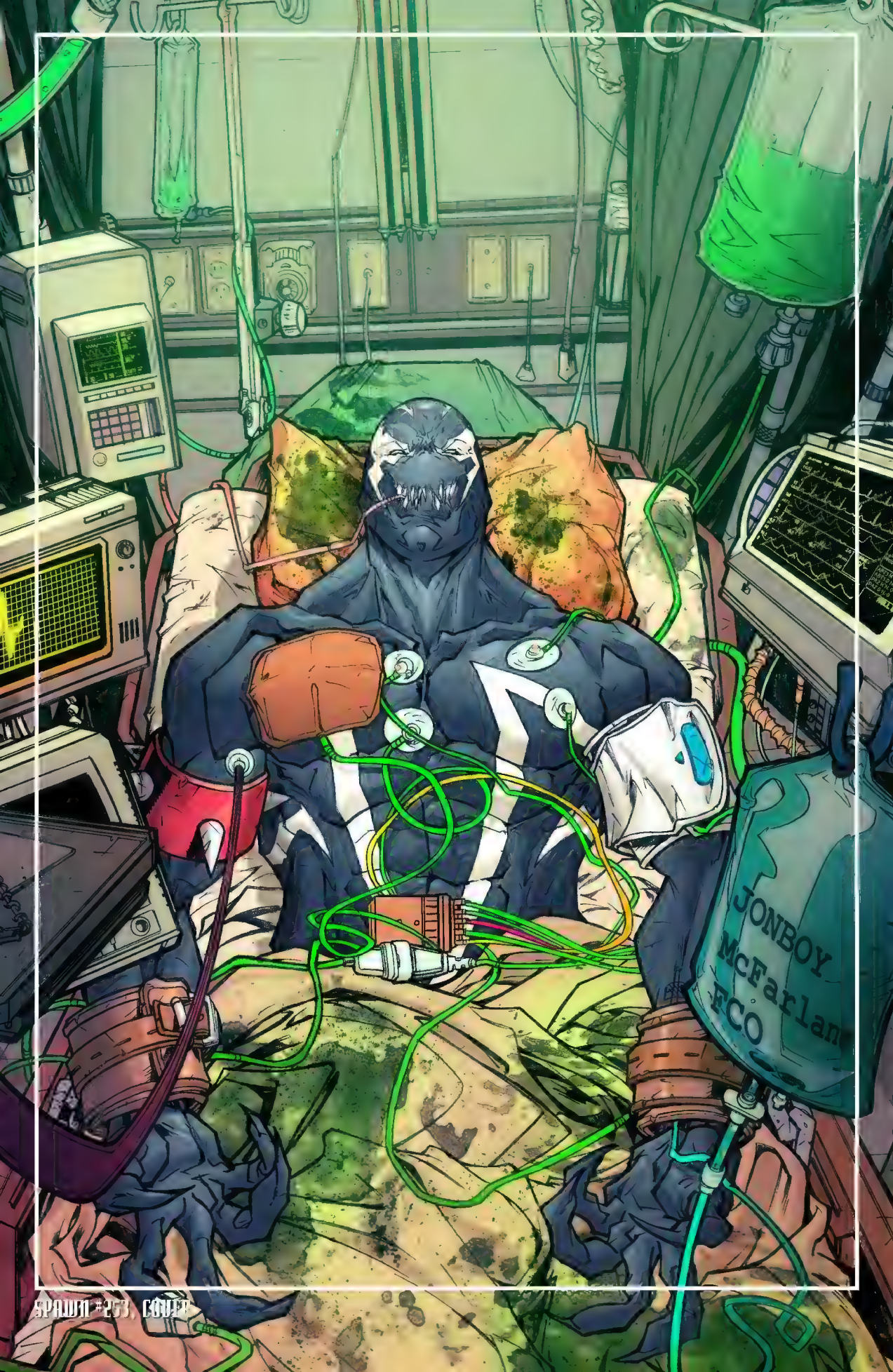
YOU'RE NO DEMON.
YOU...
NOT ONE OF HELL'S, NO. I'M ONE OF *YOURS*.
BOUND TO YOU WHETHER YOU ACCEPT IT OR NOT.
AND YOU CARRY US WITH YOU WHEREVER YOU GO. IN SUCH A WAY YOU CANNOT FATHOM.

I WAS A CARPENTER. I DID NOTHING TO DESERVE BEING MURDERED. AND MY FAMILY-- YOU TOOK ME FROM THEM. YOU ACT LIKE A CHILD BECAUSE YOU WANT A CHANCE TO BE WITH YOUR FAMILY AGAIN?
WHEN DID I EVER HAVE THAT CHANCE--?
I DIED BECAUSE OF YOUR SINS.
I WAS A SIMPLE MERCHANT.
I CAN'T ESCAPE YOUR GUILT.
YOU BETRAYED ONE OF YOUR OWN.
WE'RE ALL BOUND TO YOU!
ALL THE PEOPLE I KILLED. THEY... THEY'RE MY SUIT.

MALEBOLGIA SENDS HIS REGARDS. WONDERS WHY YOU NEVER PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER BEFORE NOW.
HE REQUISITIONED OUR SOULS WHEN WE DIED. HARVESTED THEM. KNOWING THAT WE WOULD BE BOUND TO YOU FOREVER.
I FOLLOWED MY ORDERS!
BUT SECRETLY YOU RELISHED EVERY SINGLE ONE.
WHEN YOU WENT LOOKING FOR MY GRANDSON I HID IN MY HOUSE FOR A WEEK. FEARING YOU MIGHT COME BACK. AND WHEN YOU DIDN'T, SOMEHOW THAT MADE IT WORSE.
DAYS LATER MY GRANDSON WENT MISSING. AFTER THAT I HAD NOTHING LEFT TO LIVE FOR. SO I WENT BACK INTO THAT BARN AND PUT HIS PISTOL TO MY HEAD.
BLAM

AAAAHH!
OH, GOD...
I'M SORRY. WE HAD NO CHOICE. YOU HAD TO KNOW.
COME ON.
WAS THERE ANYTHING I COULD HAVE DONE TO PREVENT IT?
NO.
YOUR SUIT NEEDED TO BE MADE FROM THE SOULS OF INNOCENTS.

"IT MAY BE NOTHING. BUT WE'VE CHECKED THE SOFTWARE AND IT'S FUNCTIONING NORMALLY."
"COULD IT BE A FALSE POSITIVE?"
"IT'S POSSIBLE. BUT ABOUT AS LIKELY AS A FALSE DNA POSITIVE. WE'VE TESTED AND RETESTED."
622
ES CUTTER
ations Director
IT'S NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HEARD RUMORS THIS GUY MAY HAVE RESURFACED. I UNDERSTAND YOU AND HE HAD A HISTORY TOGETHER.
HERE. I PULLED HIS DOSSIER. IT MAKES FOR SOME INTERESTING READING.
CLASSIFIED
TOP SECRET
AL SIMMONS.
NOW THERE'S A NAME I HAVEN'T HEARD IN TEN YEARS.
Cutter,


JONBOY
McFarlane
FCO

STATEN ISLAND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL
'Our dead are never dead to us, until we have forgotten them.'
- George Eliot
...I UNDERSTAND THE PATIENT HAD A ROUGH NIGHT. LET'S INCREASE HIS DOSAGE OF MIDAZOLAM BY FIVE MILLIGRAMS, AND WATCH HIS INTRAVENOUS FLUIDS.
YES, DOCTOR.
MONITOR HIS RESPIRATORY SECRETIONS AND LET ME KNOW IF HE EXPERIENCES ANY ADDITIONAL DISCOMFORT. WHAT ABOUT HIS FAMILY? HAVE WE HEARD ANY WORD FROM THEM?
NOT YET.
LET'S GET CONTACT INFORMATION FROM THE PATIENT'S WIFE. I THINK HIS CHILDREN DESERVE TO KNOW THEIR FATHER DOESN'T HAVE LONG...
Terminal Cancer
Simmons, Bernard T

YOU SLEEP TIGHT, MISTER SIMMONS. I'LL TELL YOUR WIFE TO COME IN QUIETLY WHEN SHE GETS BACK.
IT'S GONNA BE OKAY.
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
HKKK

IS SOME-ONE THERE? I CAN'T SEE YOU.
MARY, IS THAT YOU?
COME INTO THE LIGHT... WHERE I CAN SEE YOU...
...WAIT...
OH MY GOD.
SMEK
HELLO, DAD.

MARC...? IS THAT YOU, SON? WHAT'S HAPPENED... AM I AWAKE?
NOT MARC. YOUR OTHER SON.
I DON'T HAVE ANOTHER SON. HE DIED YEARS AGO.
NOT THAT YOU ATTENDED HIS FUNERAL.
AL?
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN. I JUST NEED YOU TO COME WITH ME.
I CAN'T GO ANYWHERE. I'M NOT EVEN SUPPOSED TO BE OUT OF BED. NOT UNTIL THERE'S SIGNS THE CANCER WILL GO INTO IN REMISSION.
DAD. LOOK BEHIND YOU.
JESUS. THAT'S... ME!

WHAT'S HAPPENING? YOU'RE... YOU CAN'T BE MY AL. HE DIED YEARS AGO. SO WHO ARE YOU?
SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO DIE. BUT IT DIDN'T TAKE.
ARE YOU COMING WITH ME OR DO I HAVE TO DRAG YOU?
I DON'T UNDER-STAND...
WHERE ARE THE NURSES? THE DOCTORS?
I HAVE ENEMIES WHO'LL SEE YOU AS CURRENCY... A BARGAINING CHIP. THEY'LL TRY TO REDIRECT THE PATH. I NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT DOESN'T HAPPEN.
BUT DON'T BE UNDER ANY ILLUSIONS. I'M NOT HERE TO MAKE AMENDS.

EXIT

DAD.
STAY BEHIND ME.

SLIT
F*CK YOU!
KRAK
OH, SWEET JESUS... YOU...
NO. DON'T SAY A WORD. JUST COME WITH ME. SOMEONE TOOK YOU OFF THE PATH.
BUT YOU JUST--
I DID NOTHING OF CONSEQUENCE.
WHICH IS MORE THAN YOU EVER DID FOR ME.

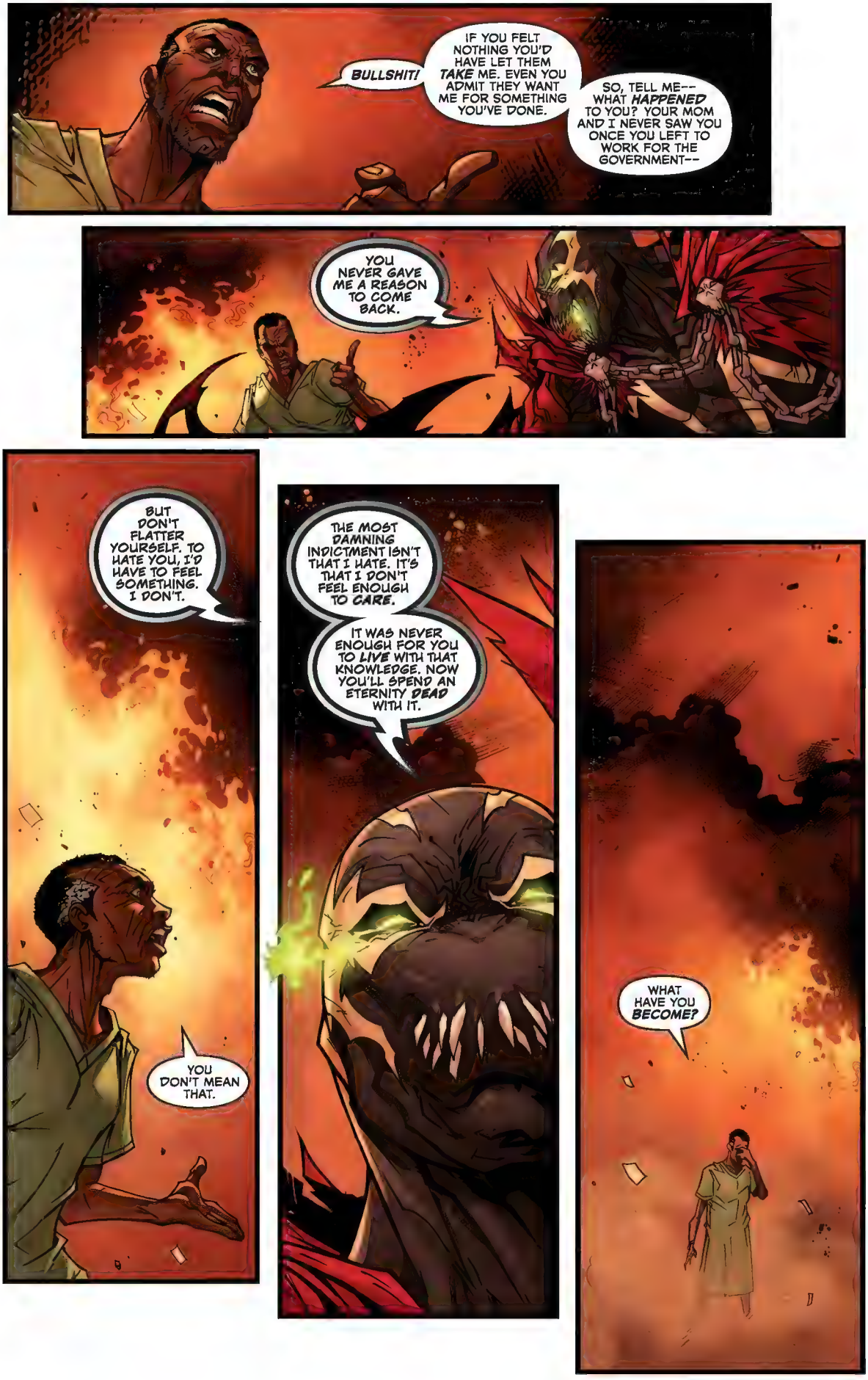
AL... WAIT!
IF THIS REALLY IS YOU, THEN YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME.
THERE ARE SOME THINGS I HAVE TO EXPLAIN--
EXIT
I'M NOT HERE TO RESOLVE ANYTHING. THAT'S FOR YOU TO DO BY YOURSELF. YOU'VE GOT ETERNITY. MAYBE YOU'LL MAKE SOME HEADWAY.
MY ONLY FUNCTION IS TO GET YOU WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GO. THAT'S IT!
NO.
IF GOD DIDN'T INTEND US TO RECONCILE, HE WOULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO HELP ME CROSS OVER--
OH, LORD... YOUR MOTHER. SHE WENT TO THE STORE TO GET ME SOME GINGER ALE. SHE WON'T KNOW YET.
FIRST OF ALL, GOD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS. AND GOD IS AN ANDROGYNE.
SECOND OF ALL, DON'T WORRY ABOUT MOM.
Tennessee WHISKEY
BOTTLED AT THE
London 1914
Star Of Excellence Brussels 1954
Gold Medal With Palm Leaves Amsterdam 1981
"SHE ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT YOU. I GUARANTEE IT."

I WENT TO SLEEP. SHE TOLD ME SHE WAS GOING TO FETCH GINGER ALE--
IMAGINE THE IRONY. SHE WENT TO A BAR INSTEAD, TRYING TO WASH AWAY HER FEELINGS. AND WHEN SHE FINDS OUT YOU'RE DEAD, SHE'LL FEEL SORRY FOR HERSELF AND THAT'LL BE HER NEXT EXCUSE.
AL, YOUR MOTHER LOVED US IN HER OWN WAY. SHE JUST... SHE WAS ALWAYS SCARED TO SHOW IT TO ANYONE. ESPECIALLY YOU AND MARC, IN CASE YOU'D HATE HER ANYWAY.
THE CONCEPT OF LOVE IS JUST AN APPROXIMATION. PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BE LOVED. THEY WANT TO BE SAFE.
THEN WHY ARE YOU HERE?
TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT.
BUT NOT WITH YOU.

STAY CLOSE TO ME. THIS PATH HAS BEEN CORRUPTED. SOMEONE'S TRYING TO PREVENT YOU FROM GETTING TO YOUR EXIT POINT.
THEY'RE TRYING TO USE YOU TO GET TO ME.
LISTEN TO ME! IF YOU WANT HIM, THEN MAKE YOUR INTENTIONS CLEAR!
WHO ARE YOU YELLING AT? ITS JUST SHADOWS--
BE SILENT.
THEY'RE ALWAYS HERE.

THESE CREATURES HAVE NEVER LIVED. THEY'RE ASPECTS-- LESSER COPIES OF AN ORIGINAL, SENT TO DO HIS DIRTY WORK.
DON'T ADDRESS THEM DIRECTLY. DON'T REFER TO THEM WITH YOUR THOUGHTS. THEY'LL FIND ALL THE CRACKS.
HOW? HOW CAN I NOT THINK OF SOME-THING?
THAT SHOULD BE EASY.
THE SAME WAY YOU NEVER THOUGHT OF ME.

YOUR ASPECTS HAVE NO POWER AGAINST ME! STILL, YOU INSIST ON TESTING MY RESOLVE!
YOU THINK I'M STILL CONNECTED TO THIS ONE BECAUSE HE SIRED MY HUMAN FORM?
YOU CAN'T CARE FOR SOMEONE YOU DON'T KNOW. YOU CAN'T BE TIED JUST BY BLOOD.
STILL, YOU TRY. BECAUSE YOU CAN'T ACCEPT THAT ALL I FEEL...
...IS NOTHING!


BULLSHIT!
IF YOU FELT NOTHING YOU'D HAVE LET THEM TAKE ME. EVEN YOU ADMIT THEY WANT ME FOR SOMETHING YOU'VE DONE.
SO, TELL ME-- WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU? YOUR MOM AND I NEVER SAW YOU ONCE YOU LEFT TO WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT--
YOU NEVER GAVE ME A REASON TO COME BACK.
BUT DON'T FLATTER YOURSELF. TO HATE YOU, I'D HAVE TO FEEL SOMETHING. I DON'T.
YOU DON'T MEAN THAT.
THE MOST DAMNING INDICTMENT ISN'T THAT I HATE. IT'S THAT I DON'T FEEL ENOUGH TO CARE.
IT WAS NEVER ENOUGH FOR YOU TO LIVE WITH THAT KNOWLEDGE. NOW YOU'LL SPEND AN ETERNITY DEAD WITH IT.
WHAT HAVE YOU BECOME?

I'M THE PRODUCT OF A LOVELESS MARRIAGE BETWEEN A DRUNKEN BITCH AND A MARTYR WHO LIVED FOR HIS OWN INTERESTS.
SO, I'M NOTHING OF CONSEQUENCE. JUST THE END RESULT OF A FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR A TAX DEDUCTION. NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.
WE COULD MAKE THIS RIGHT.
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF: THERE'S ETERNITY--
THERE'S A LENS THROUGH WHICH WE ARE ALL VIEWED--YOURS IS TOO DISTORTED TO RESHAPE. YOU CREATED THIS CORRUPTION--OTHERS ARE SIMPLY SHAPING IT FOR THEIR OWN ENDS.
MARC STAYED WITH US! HE STUCK IT OUT... AS CRAPPY AS LIFE WAS! BUT YOU-- YOU LEFT! IF YOU WON'T MAKE REPARATIONS FOR YOUR MOTHER AND I, THEN DO IT FOR HIS SAKE!
MY BROTHER IS A SACK OF BLOOD, WRAPPED AROUND A HEART. HE DOESN'T MATTER ANY MORE.
NOW COME WITH ME, UNLESS YOU WANT TO SPEND THAT ETERNITY OF YOURS IN HELL.

WAIT... IF WE'RE NOT GOING TO HELL, THEN WHAT? YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE ME TO HEAVEN?
TO YOUR JUDGMENT POINT. NOTHING MORE.
WHERE YOU'RE SENT AFTER THAT ISN'T UP TO ME... AND NO LONGER UP TO YOU. HOW AND WHY YOU ARE JUDGED IS A MATTER OF RANDOM CHANCE.
THEN LET'S GET THIS OVER...
--QUIET! MY SKIN... IT JUST GOT COLD.
SHOW YOURSELF, BELIAL.
I KNOW YOU'RE THERE.
HELLO, AL...

...I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO ME.
YOU'RE NOT GETTING HIM.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT? I WAS THINKING QUITE THE OPPOSITE.
AL...
IS HE...?
THE DEVIL? NO. I'M NOT HIM.
THINK OF ME AS THE PRESIDENT. HE'S THE CHAIRMAN. AND TRUST ME: YOU DON'T *EVER* WANT TO MEET THE CHAIRMAN.
ENOUGH.
I KNOW YOU'RE ABOUT TO *BARGAIN* WITH ME, BELIAL. I KNOW HOW DESPERATELY YOU WANT THIS ONE, BELIAL-- SO MUCH THAT IT MAKES YOUR BLACKENED SOUL *ACHE* FOR IT.
THEN BARGAIN WITH ME. MAKE ME AN OFFER...
SO I CAN *REFUSE* IT.

NO...
NOT YET.
NOT UNTIL I'VE SOFTENED YOU UP.
BECAUSE YOU STILL HAVEN'T LEARNED...
SNAP!
I MAKE THE RULES AROUND HERE. NOT YOU.

DAD! HURRY! GET BENEATH ME!
KRA-KOW
YOU SICK BASTARD! WHAT'RE YOU DOING!?
TEACHING YOUR BOY A LESSON. I DIDN'T LIKE THE LACK OF RESPECT HE WAS SHOWING ME.

ALL HE HAD TO DO WAS HAND YOU OVER AND I WOULD HAVE LEFT HIM ALONE. HE CHOSE TO DEFY ME. ALL THIS IS ON HIM.
YOU SEE, I'VE GOT PLANS FOR YOU. THERE'S SOMETHING WICKED COMING YOUR WAY, DEAR MISTER SIMMONS. YOU DON'T KNOW IT, AND YOU CAN'T SEE IT.
BUT THE PAIN YOU'LL FEEL FROM IT WILL BE VERY REAL.
MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOUR SON'S INSTINCT WERE RIGHT-- THAT HE SHOULDN'T CARE ABOUT THE FATE OF YOUR SOUL. MAYBE HE ALREADY KNEW YOU BELONGED TO ME. AND NOTHING-- INCLUDING HIM-- WAS GOING TO CHANGE THAT.
YOU'RE EXPENSIVE CURRENCY. I'LL USE YOU WISELY.
YOU'RE WRONG, BELIAL!
YOU DON'T MAKE THE RULES!
LOOK WHAT I'M HOLDING. YOU KNOW WHAT IT IS. WHAT IT CAN DO! NOW LEAVE THIS PLACE!
GOD'S SWORD!? NO! HE WASN'T TO INTERFERE. THAT WAS THE DEAL. THE BARGAIN HE MADE.
THE RULE! HE'S BROKEN THE RULE!
THIS ISN'T OVER.

AL...? HOW DID YOU...
SURVIVE?
YES.
BECAUSE IT'S WHAT I DO. IT'S THE ONE THING YOU INSTILLED IN ME... THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS... I NEEDED TO SURVIVE. YOUR ABUSE AND NEGLECT TAUGHT ME THAT SKILL VERY QUICKLY.
SURVIVING IS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING SINCE I WAS FIVE.
AL, I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'VE DONE THIS FOR ME. BUT I WANT YOU TO UNDERSTAND...
I LOVED YOU. I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.
YOU'RE MY SON. AND THOUGH I WAS A BAD FATHER, AND DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO ACT, IT DIDN'T MEAN I DIDN'T LOVE YOU OR CARE ABOUT YOU.
SO, MAYBE IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME TO ASK, BUT...
FORGIVE ME. FOR EVERYTHING I DID TO YOU, PLEASE, PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
IT'S TOO LATE.

BUT IF YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR SOUL, YOU NEED TO LEAVE HERE. IF YOU HESITATE, THEY'LL FIND YOU AGAIN. AND I'M NOT GOING TO BE AROUND TO PREVENT THAT.
YOU NEED TO STEP INTO THE LIGHT.
WHERE WILL IT LEAD TO?
YOUR JUDGMENT POINT. IT'S WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO GO. THEN THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO USE YOU AGAINST ME LIKE THEY HAVE WITH WANDA.
AL...
I'M SORRY. I SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT YEARS AGO.
I WISH YOU HAD, TOO.
SON.
GOODBYE...

BYE, DAD.
I HOPE YOU FIND WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR.

SPAWN #254, COVER

THE R.M.S. TITANIC
APRIL 15TH, 1912.
FORTY-TWO MINUTES
PAST MIDNIGHT
TOMMY! STAY CLOSE! WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
SIR! YOU NEED TO BE ON THE UPPER DECK WITH THE REST OF THE THIRD CLASS.
...CAPTAIN SAID WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO HOURS LEFT BEFORE THE ENTIRE SHIP IS UNDER WATER.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OVER THERE, SON! GET IN THAT LIFEBOAT!
JUST DO WHAT I SAID!
BUT IT'S ONLY HALF FULL! THERE'S STILL ROOM... FOR MY SON!
STOP! WE'RE PUSHING BACK. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER BOAT.
I SAID HE'S NOT GETTING ON.
GODAMMIT... HE'S JUST A CHILD!

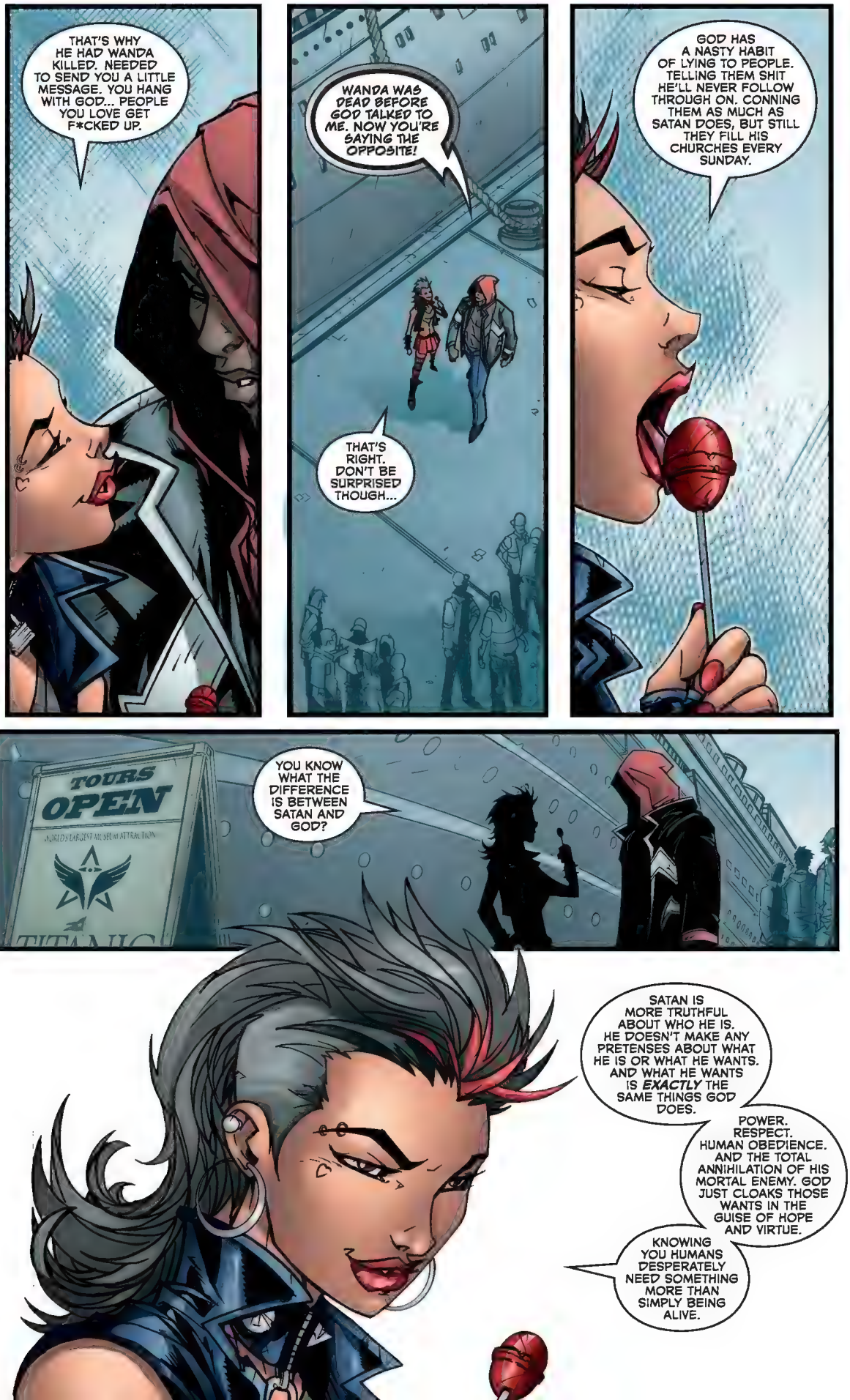
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HELP, TOMMY. WE HAVE TO DO THIS ON OUR OWN!
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER BOATS!?
THEY'RE ALL GONE. I COUNTED.
DOESN'T MATTER! JUST STAY WITH ME!
DAD! IN THE SKY--- IS IT A *FLARE?*
LISTEN TO ME, SON--YA NEED TO BE ***BRAVE.*** THINK OF MOM UP IN HEAVEN. SHE'LL ASK GOD T' LOOK OVER US, I PROMISE.
THE WATER'S GETTING CLOSER. WHAT DO WE DO?
THE ONLY THING LEFT. WE...

JUMP!
DAD!
LOOK.

SHE DID IT!! MOM ... SHE SENT US HELP!

LOOK AT THEM... ALL OF THEM. MOVING AROUND LIKE NOTHING MATTERS. THEY ONLY CARE ABOUT THEIR OWN LIVES.
THAT'S WHY WE GET PREYED UPON. BECAUSE WE'RE EASY TARGETS TO ISOLATE-- THEN CONVERT.
HEAVEN AND HELL BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT. THAT'S WHY THEY'LL NEVER LEAVE US ALONE-- EITHER OF THEM. THEY KNOW WE'RE A BUNCH OF SUCKERS.
THAT WE HUMANS ARE GULLIBLE. BUT TWO CAN PLAY THAT GAME.
AND SOON I'LL SHOW THEM WHY I CAME BACK.*
*SPAWN: Resurrection #1 – Todd
I JUST NEED TO BE A LITTLE MORE PATIENT.
White Star Bank
HEY..?

...I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU.
BINGO.
I KNOW. I WASN'T HIDING.
AW... THAT'S CUTE. SOMEONE WHO LIKES PLAYING THE GAME.
GAME? I'D CALL IT SOMETHING ELSE.
YEAH? WHAT WOULD THAT BE?
YOU'LL FIND OUT... WHEN THE TIME'S RIGHT.
CONFIDENT ARE YOU? HE SAID YOU'D BE LIKE THAT. SO LET'S CUT TO THE CHASE. YOU KNOW WHO I WORK FOR, RIGHT?
I'M PRETTY SURE.
EXCELLENT. AND THOUGH YOU TWO HAVE NEVER MET, SATAN'S BEEN KEEPING TABS ON YOU FOR QUITE SOME TIME.
HE DIDN'T WANT TO INTERFERE. THOUGHT YOU AND MALEBOLGIA COULD DO YOUR THING WITHOUT HIM HAVING TO STEP IN. BUT YOU IGNORED THE RULES, DIDN'T YOU?
WHEN YOU TALKED TO GOD.
SEE.. HE DOESN'T LIKE GETTING SCREWED. ESPECIALLY BY HEAVEN.


THAT'S WHY HE HAD WANDA KILLED. NEEDED TO SEND YOU A LITTLE MESSAGE. YOU HANG WITH GOD... PEOPLE YOU LOVE GET F*CKED UP.
WANDA WAS DEAD BEFORE GOD TALKED TO ME. NOW YOU'RE SAYING THE OPPOSITE!
THAT'S RIGHT. DON'T BE SURPRISED THOUGH...
GOD HAS A NASTY HABIT OF LYING TO PEOPLE. TELLING THEM SHIT HE'LL NEVER FOLLOW THROUGH ON. CONNING THEM AS MUCH AS SATAN DOES, BUT STILL THEY FILL HIS CHURCHES EVERY SUNDAY.
TOURS OPEN
YOU KNOW WHAT THE DIFFERENCE IS BETWEEN SATAN AND GOD?
SATAN IS MORE TRUTHFUL ABOUT WHO HE IS. HE DOESN'T MAKE ANY PRETENSES ABOUT WHAT HE IS OR WHAT HE WANTS. AND WHAT HE WANTS IS *EXACTLY* THE SAME THINGS GOD DOES.
POWER. RESPECT. HUMAN OBEDIENCE. AND THE TOTAL ANNIHILATION OF HIS MORTAL ENEMY. GOD JUST CLOAKS THOSE WANTS IN THE GUISE OF HOPE AND VIRTUE.
KNOWING YOU HUMANS DESPERATELY NEED SOMETHING MORE THAN SIMPLY BEING ALIVE.

SADLY, THAT CRAVING, THAT--WEAKNESS--WILL ALWAYS BE THE HUMANS' ACHILLES HEEL.'
YOU'VE GOT IT BACKWARDS... YOU'RE ADDICTED TO US. BUT YOU'RE TOO BLIND AND ARROGANT TO SEE YOUR OWN WEAKNESS.
THAT'S A NEW ONE. HAVEN'T HEARD THAT THEORY.
IT'S NOT A THEORY. PROVE ME WRONG. WALK AWAY FROM US. LEAVE US ALONE... FOR GOOD.
TOURS OPEN
JUST LIKE THAT?
JUST LIKE THAT.
AND WHERE WOULD THE FUN BE IN THAT?
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT FUN. I'M TALKING ABOUT YOUR CRAVING. YOU'RE TOO SCARED TO ADMIT IT'S REAL.
WOW.
THIS IS GETTING PRETTY HEADY. I THINK WE NEED TO TALK THIS OUT. BUT WHERE COLD WE POSSIBLY DO THAT?
I KNOW!
I BET YOU'VE NEVER BEEN TO THE TITANIC MUSEUM, HAVE YOU?
OH, C'MON. DON'T BE LIKE THAT. IT'LL BE EDUCATIONAL FOR BOTH OF US.
TITANIC
BESIDES, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO EVER GET YOUR DEAR WANDA BACK IF YOU WON'T PLAY ALONG? I'LL EVEN PAY.

TWO TICKETS, PLEASE.
YOU COMING?
YOU'RE WELCOME TO START IF YOU WANT. ENLIGHTEN ME AS TO WHY WE SHOULD LEAVE YOU ALONE.
I SAID YOU CAN'T. AND NEITHER CAN GOD. AS LONG AS WE EXIST YOU HAVE A PURPOSE. WITHOUT US YOU'RE NOTHING.
AND THERE'S ONE THING I'VE LEARNED ABOUT HEAVEN AND HELL. YOUR EGOS WON'T ALLOW YOU TO BE 'NOTHING.' AND THAT'S WHY, WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT, I'LL DESTROY BOTH OF YOU.
YOU THREATENING US?
I'M TELLING YOU WHAT I'M GOING TO DO.
"WHEN THE TIME IS RIGHT." YOU KEEP SAYING THAT. SO LET'S TALK ABOUT TIME. DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW IT WORKS?
OF COURSE YOU DON'T. BECAUSE WE INVENTED IT. GOD LIKES TO TAKE HALF THE CREDIT, BUT EITHER WAY, WE CONTROL IT. HUMANS ARE MERELY SLAVES TO IT. TIME DEFINES EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU. HOW OLD YOU ARE. WHEN TO BE AT WORK. WHEN TO SLEEP. I MEAN EVERYTHING.
EVEN WHEN YOU THINK IT DOESN'T MATTER, IT DOES. YOU FALL IN LOVE BECAUSE YOU KNOW EVENTUALLY YOU'LL BE DEAD AND YOU DON'T WANT TO WASTE YOUR TIME ON EARTH ALONE.

ATM
SO, IF WE CONTROL TIME... AREN'T YOU CURIOUS AS TO HOW MUCH WE CAN MANIPULATE IT? HAVEN'T YOU EVER ASKED YOURSELF WHY YOU CAME BACK FIVE YEARS LATER AFTER YOU DIED-- WHEN IT SEEMED LIKE ONLY A SECOND TO YOU?*
AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, SHOULDN'T YOUR BRAIN BE SCREAMING AT YOU AS TO HOW ALL OF THIS MIGHT EFFECT WANDA'S CURRENT CONDITION?
*Way back in issue 1--Todd
YOU SHOULD.
HERE, LET ME SHOW YOU AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THIS WORKS.
SNAP
ON IT'S MAIDEN VOYAGE THE TITANIC SANK. BUT DID IT HAVE TO? COULD THAT TRAGEDY BE UNDONE? OR AT THE VERY LEAST, DID SOME OF THOSE WHO PERISHED, SURVIVE? AND SHOULD SOME OF THOSE WHO SURVIVED... HAVE DIED?
IF YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT...
I'M NOT TELLING YOU ANYTHING. I'M SHOWING YOU OPTIONS.

"AND AN ALTERNATE POSSIBILITY."
DAD! DO YOU SEE ALL THEM WHITE-CAPS? HOW BIG DO YOU THINK THEY CAN GET?
HEY, MISTER!... YOU EVER SEEN BIGGER SWELLS THAN THAT?
TOMMY! MIND YOUR MANNERS!
I'M SORRY, SIR, HE GETS EXCITED AT TIMES. AND WE APOLOGIZE FOR BEING ON THIS DECK WHEN WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO. WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN.
NO. IT'S FINE. EVERYTHING'S FINE. WE WERE ALL YOUNG ONCE.
SOME-THING'S WRONG.

BLOODY COLD, AIN'T IT?
YOU HEARD WHAT THIS SHIP CAN DO-- CUTS THROUGH WIND LIKE NOTHING ELSE.
WELL, TOO DARK TO SEE ANYTHING. ESPECIALLY WITHOUT BINOCULARS. SEEMS LIKE A WASTE OF OUR...
Oh my God.
DO YOU SEE IT!?
RING THE BELL! RING IT!!
CLANG
CLANG
CLANG

YOU HEAR THAT, HELLSPAWN? DISASTER'S COMING TO ALL THESE PEOPLE. THE QUESTION IS: FOR A FEW OF THEM... ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP CHANGE THEIR FATE?
GABRIEL! I KNEW HELL NEEDED A TRAITOR FOR THIS LITTLE TEST.
OF COURSE THEY PICKED YOU.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN QUICK TO JUDGE, SIMMONS. NOW IT'S TIME TO SEE HOW GOOD THAT SKILL IS.
DO WHAT YOU WANT. I'M NOT PLAYING.
TOO LATE FOR THAT. YOU ALREADY ARE.
YOU'RE HERE BECAUSE YOU THINK YOU CAN SAVE YOUR WIFE WANDA. IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE. TO UNDO THE PAST--TO CHANGE FATE--COMES WITH A PRICE. THE QUESTION TONIGHT, IS WHAT PRICE YOU'RE WILLING TO PAY.
TO WHAT DEPTH YOU'LL GO TO SAVE A SOUL?

YOU THINK YOU'RE A HERO? THEN PROVE IT TONIGHT.
CRREEEEEEEEKK
IT'S BEGUN. TIME WILL START TO JUMP-- TO SKIP IN FRONT OF YOUR EYES. AND NOW YOU HAVE TO DO YOUR PART.
AND I'LL DO MINE.

TOMMY! STAY CLOSE! WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
SIR! YOU NEED TO BE ON THE UPPER DECK WITH THE REST OF THE THIRD CLASS.
...CAPTAIN SAID WE'VE ONLY GOT TWO HOURS LEFT BEFORE THE ENTIRE SHIP IS UNDER WATER.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
OVER THERE, SON! GET IN THAT LIFEBOAT!
JUST DO WHAT I SAID!
BUT IT'S ONLY HALF FULL! THERE'S STILL ROOM... FOR MY SON!
STOP! WE'RE PUSHING BACK. YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND ANOTHER BOAT.
I SAID HE'S NOT GETTING ON.
GODAMMIT... HE'S JUST A CHILD!
NO!

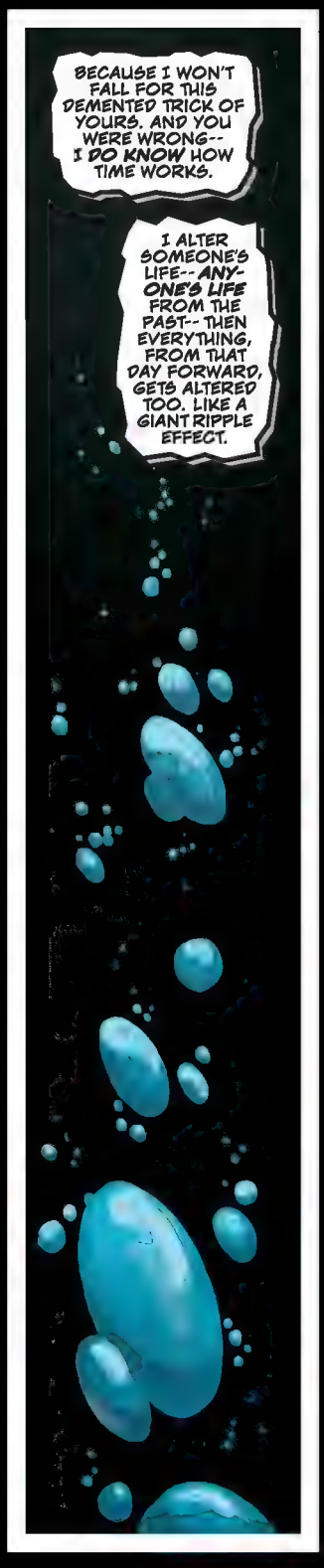
I KNOW HOW THIS ENDS.
NO. YOU ONLY KNOW WHAT YOU'VE READ.
WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER BOATS!?
THEY'RE NOT GOING TO HELP, TOMMY. WE HAVE TO DO THIS ON OUR OWN!
THEY'RE ALL GONE. I COUNTED.
THOUGH THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU EXIST, HELLSPAWN... SOME OF THEM WILL *DESPERATELY* NEED YOU TO MAKE A CHOICE!
THE WATER... IT'S GETTING CLOSER. WHAT DO WE DO?
LISTEN TO ME, SON--YA NEED TO BE *BRAVE*. THINK OF MOM UP IN HEAVEN. SHE'LL ASK GOD T' LOOK OVER US, I PROMISE.
THE ONLY THING LEFT. WE...

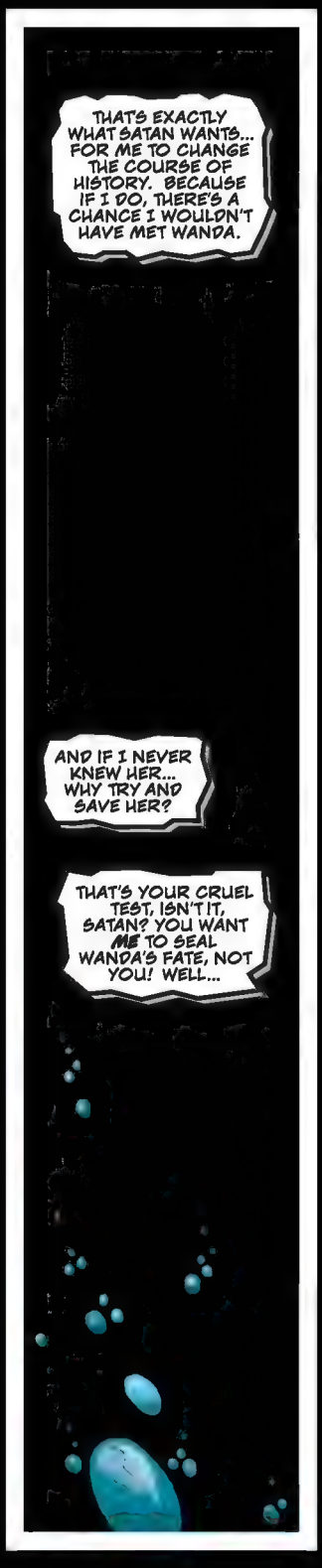
JUMP!

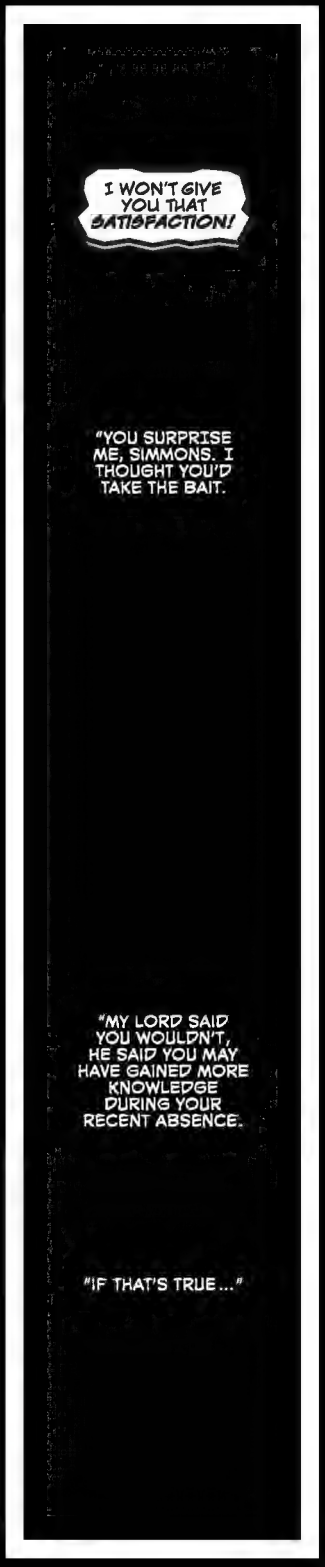
THROUGH YOUR GRACE, YOU SHALL BE SAVED. FOR I AM *YOUR SAVIOR!*
NO!
SHE DID IT!! MOM!... SHE SENT *HELP!*
DAD! LOOK!
STOP FEEDING THEM YOUR LIES! YOU'RE NOT HERE TO HELP THEM...

YOU'RE HERE TO TORTURE THEM!
ARE YOU INSANE!? THAT WATER WILL FREEZE THEM! THEY'LL DIE UNLESS WE DO SOMETHING!
SLAM
YOU LEAVE THEM ALONE! YOU DON'T GET TO DECIDE THEIR FATE!
THEN YOU DO IT! SAVE THEM!
WHO CARES WHO DOES IT? THEY NEED OUR HELP! NOW!!
LIAR!

IT'S A CON.
...AND AS MUCH AS I WANT TO...
...AS MUCH AS I SHOULD HELP...
...THEY BOTH NEED TO DIE.


BECAUSE I WON'T FALL FOR THIS DEMENTED TRICK OF YOURS. AND YOU WERE WRONG-- I *DO KNOW* HOW TIME WORKS.
I ALTER SOMEONE'S LIFE-- *ANY-ONE'S LIFE* FROM THE PAST-- THEN EVERYTHING, FROM THAT DAY FORWARD, GETS ALTERED TOO. LIKE A GIANT RIPPLE EFFECT.


THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT SATAN WANTS... FOR ME TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY. BECAUSE IF I DO, THERE'S A CHANCE I WOULDN'T HAVE MET WANDA.
AND IF I NEVER KNEW HER... WHY TRY AND SAVE HER?
THAT'S YOUR CRUEL TEST, ISN'T IT, SATAN? YOU WANT *ME* TO SEAL WANDA'S FATE, NOT YOU! WELL...


I WON'T GIVE YOU THAT *SATISFACTION!*
"YOU SURPRISE ME, SIMMONS. I THOUGHT YOU'D TAKE THE BAIT.
"MY LORD SAID YOU WOULDN'T, HE SAID YOU MAY HAVE GAINED MORE KNOWLEDGE DURING YOUR RECENT ABSENCE.
"IF THAT'S TRUE..."

"YOU NOW UNDER-STAND..."
SNAP
...THINGS CAN BE ALTERED IF ONE WANTS. AND THOSE THAT WERE ONCE ALIVE CAN DIE. AND THOSE THAT WERE ONCE DEAD COULD STILL BE ALIVE!
LIKE YOUR BELOVED WANDA. AND NOW...
NOW I'M GOING TO MAKE YOU AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE.

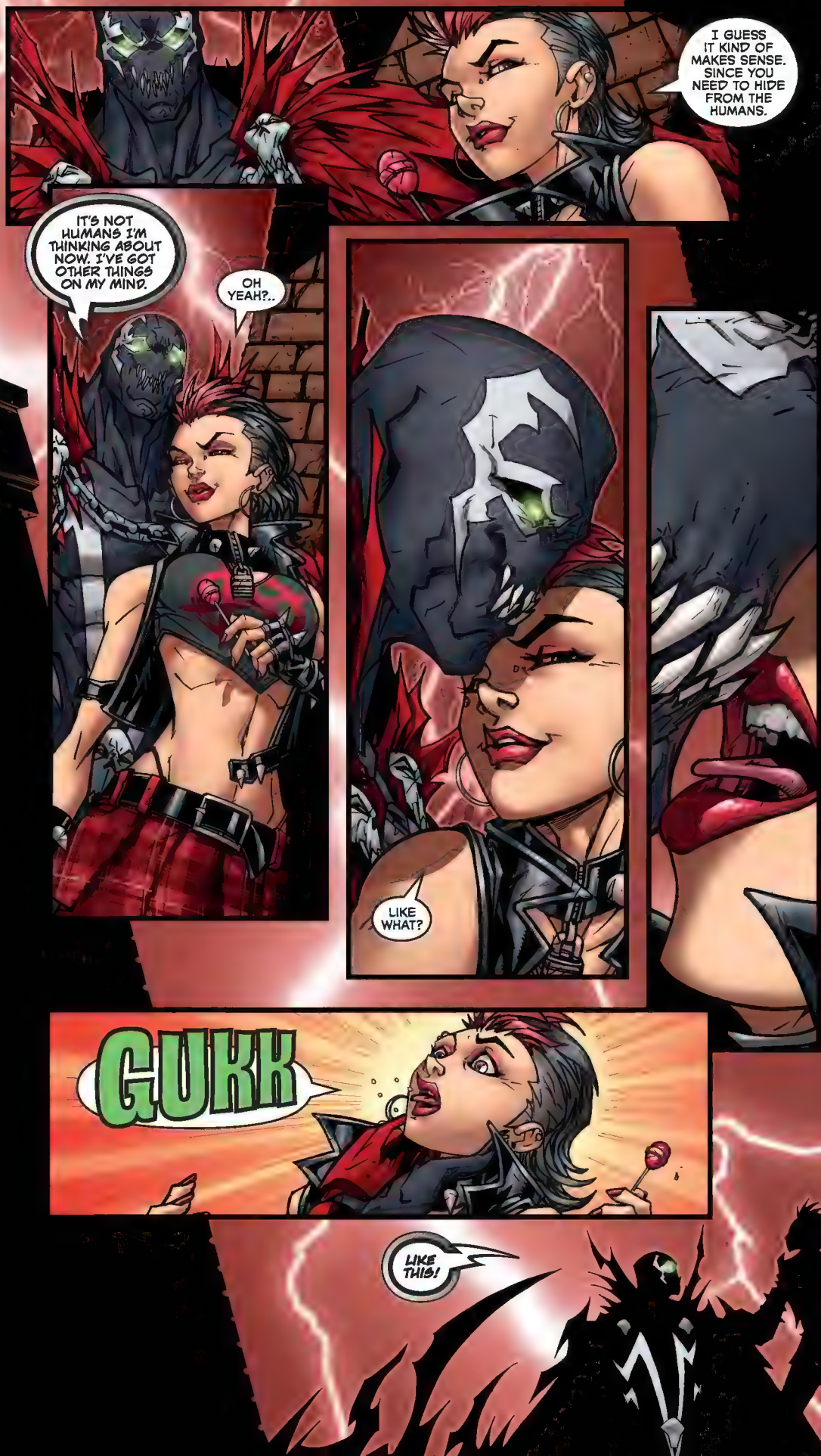
SPAWN #255, COVER

YOU CAN HAVE HER BACK... JUST LIKE SHE WAS.
IT WOULD BE LIKE NOTHING EVER HAPPENED. YOUR WIFE WOULD BE COMPLETELY BACK TO NORMAL.
SO, THE QUESTION IS-- WHAT *ARE YOU WILLING TO GIVE UP* FOR HER? WHAT'S WANDA'S SOUL WORTH TO YOU?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
YOU.
OF COURSE.
IT'S ALWAYS BEEN YOU.

WHAT ELSE?
YOUR SYMBIOTE. WE WANT YOUR SYMBIOTE.
WHY?
SATAN DIDN'T GIVE ME DETAILS.
BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE PASSED YOUR FIRST TEST*--YOU'VE GOT A BETTER SENSE OF HOW TIME CAN BE UNWOUND.
SO...
*Last issue – Todd
HERE'S HOW IT WORKS. HERE'S THE OFFER. YOU HAND OVER YOUR COSTUME--THE SYMBIOTE--THEN BEND A KNEE AND VOW NEVER TO STEP FOOT IN HELL EVER AGAIN. YOU DO THAT AND WE'LL GIVE HER BACK TO YOU.
THAT AND *YOUR OWN* HUMANITY. YOU'LL BE HUMAN AGAIN.

THEN YOU AND WANDA CAN LIVE HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
THOUGH, TECHNICALLY, SHE'S NOT REALLY YOUR WIFE ANYMORE. IS SHE?
SHE DID MARRY ANOTHER MAN AND BORE HIS CHILDREN. SO THAT'S GOTTA SUCK.
IF YOU WERE MY MAN, I WOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT TO YOU. I JUST THINK YOU DESERVE BETTER THAN THAT.
WHEN DO YOU NEED MY ANSWER?
SOON, HOPEFULLY. I CAN WAIT A BIT LONGER.
THEN LET'S GO TO MY PLACE. I DO MY BEST THINKING THERE.
HOW DO WE GET THERE?
GET IN TIGHT. I'M GOING TO WRAP YOU IN MY CAPE.
SOUNDS KINKY.

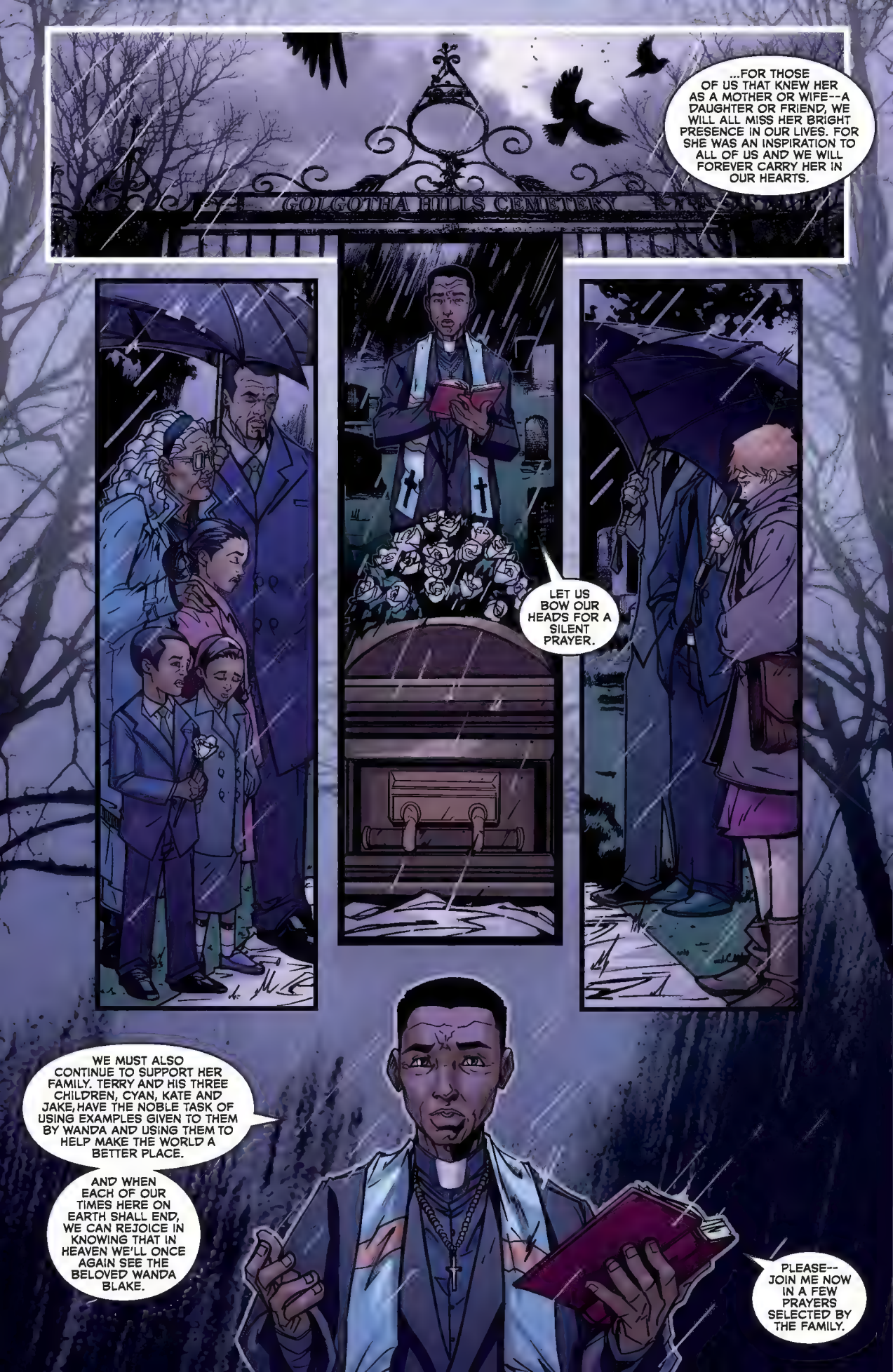
THIS IS WHERE YOU LIVE?
FOR NOW.


I GUESS IT KIND OF MAKES SENSE. SINCE YOU NEED TO HIDE FROM THE HUMANS.
IT'S NOT HUMANS I'M THINKING ABOUT NOW. I'VE GOT OTHER THINGS ON MY MIND.
OH YEAH?..
LIKE WHAT?
GUKK
LIKE THIS!

SLAM
YOU'RE NO WOMAN! OR GIRL! SO STOP ACTING LIKE IT! WE BOTH KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU ARE!
THERE...
THAT'S MORE LIKE IT, CHANGELING!
GIVE ME EVERY ONE OF YOUR LOOKS. TRY AND SCARE ME!
I SWEAR I'LL...

SLIT
YOU'LL DO NOTHING!
DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE!?
I KNOW PRECISELY WHAT I'M DOING.
SATAN WILL UNLEASH HIS WRATH.
PERFECT. THEN LET'S GIVE HIM SOMETHING TO *REALLY* BE PISSED ABOUT.

ZIKK
YEAAAAAA
WHEN I TELL HIM WHAT YOU'VE DONE... HE'LL HUNT YOU DOWN!
I'M PRAYING YOU TELL HIM.
WHEN YOU DO, GIVE HIM A MESSAGE...
TELL HIM HE HAS IT WRONG. IT'S ME THAT'LL BE COMING FOR HIM. IT'S ME THAT'LL BE HUNTING HIM DOWN!! AND THERE'S NOTHING--I MEAN NOTHING--THAT WILL STOP ME FROM GETTING TO HIM!
HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TIME LEFT... BECAUSE OF WHAT HE DID TO WANDA.
King Dead


GOLGOTHA HILLS CEMETERY
...FOR THOSE OF US THAT KNEW HER AS A MOTHER OR WIFE--A DAUGHTER OR FRIEND, WE WILL ALL MISS HER BRIGHT PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES. FOR SHE WAS AN INSPIRATION TO ALL OF US AND WE WILL FOREVER CARRY HER IN OUR HEARTS.
LET US BOW OUR HEADS FOR A SILENT PRAYER.
WE MUST ALSO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT HER FAMILY. TERRY AND HIS THREE CHILDREN, CYAN, KATE AND JAKE, HAVE THE NOBLE TASK OF USING EXAMPLES GIVEN TO THEM BY WANDA AND USING THEM TO HELP MAKE THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE.
AND WHEN EACH OF OUR TIMES HERE ON EARTH SHALL END, WE CAN REJOICE IN KNOWING THAT IN HEAVEN WE'LL ONCE AGAIN SEE THE BELOVED WANDA BLAKE.
PLEASE-- JOIN ME NOW IN A FEW PRAYERS SELECTED BY THE FAMILY.

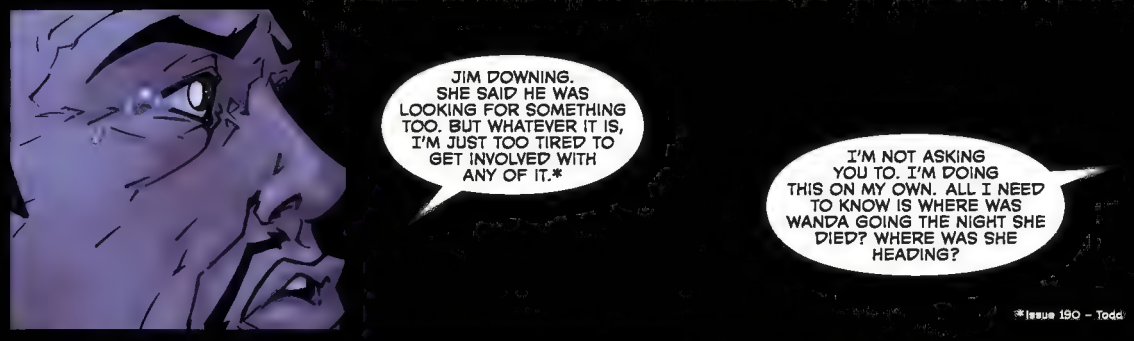
MINUTES LATER.
BEFORE WE SEND HER TO HER FINAL RESTING PLACE, TERRY, YOU AND YOUR FAMILY WANTED TO PRESENT SOMETHING.
GO AHEAD, CYAN.
THANKS.
BYE... MOM.

THE SAD MAN...
HE'S HERE.
WANDA SIMMONS
GOODBYE, WANDA.
Forever Yours, Love Al

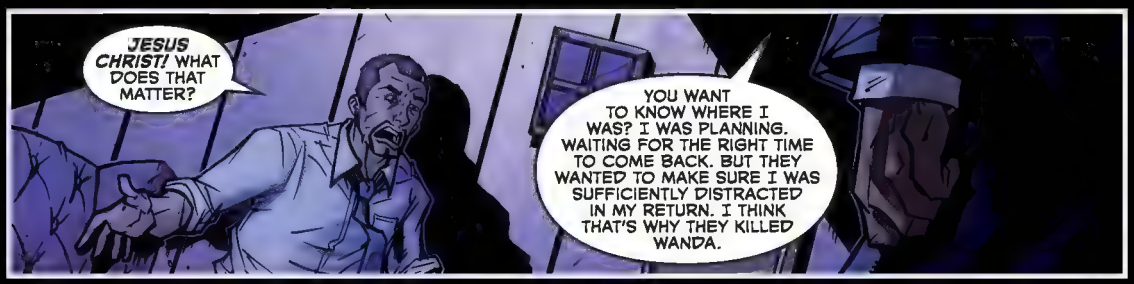
LATER THAT NIGHT...
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO NOW, WANDA.
I WAS NEVER AS STRONG AS YOU.
I'M SORRY, TERRY...

...FOR YOUR LOSS. I KNOW HOW MUCH YOU LOVED HER.
YOU KNOW NOTHING ABOUT WHAT I'M FEELING.
OR WHY.
NOW, GET OUT OF MY HOUSE.
I WILL. BUT I NEED TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS FIRST.
SHE WAS MY WIFE TOO. THAT'S WHY I NEED ANSWERS.
QUESTIONS?
YOU HAVE THE GALL TO COME INTO MY HOUSE-- UNINVITED-- SO YOU CAN INTERROGATE ME!? IN CASE YOU HADN'T HEARD, I JUST BURIED MY WIFE.

WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
WHAT?
WE HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR MONTHS. WANDA SAID YOU WERE GONE-- THAT YOU VANISHED. WHY?
BECAUSE I NEEDED TO.
WANDA MET HIM, YOU KNOW.
WHO?


JIM DOWNING. SHE SAID HE WAS LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TOO. BUT WHATEVER IT IS, I'M JUST TOO TIRED TO GET INVOLVED WITH ANY OF IT.*
I'M NOT ASKING YOU TO. I'M DOING THIS ON MY OWN. ALL I NEED TO KNOW IS WHERE WAS WANDA GOING THE NIGHT SHE DIED? WHERE WAS SHE HEADING?

*Issue 190 – Todd


JESUS CHRIST! WHAT DOES THAT MATTER?
YOU WANT TO KNOW WHERE I WAS? I WAS PLANNING. WAITING FOR THE RIGHT TIME TO COME BACK. BUT THEY WANTED TO MAKE SURE I WAS SUFFICIENTLY DISTRACTED IN MY RETURN. I THINK THAT'S WHY THEY KILLED WANDA.

WHAT!?
IT WASN'T AN ACCIDENT? IS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING? SHE'S DEAD BECAUSE SOMEONE HATES YOU!? MY WIFE'S DEAD BECAUSE OF YOU! YOU KILLED HER! YOU KILLED HER!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT IT'S GOING TO BE LIKE FOR THEM TO HAVE TO GROW UP WITHOUT THEIR MOTHER? SHE WAS EVERYTHING TO THEM! OR DO YOU EVEN CARE? I BET YOU'RE GLAD WANDA DOESN'T GET TO SHARE A BED WITH ME AGAIN. THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?
YOU COULDN'T STAND THAT SHE WAS WITH ME INSTEAD OF YOU. THAT WE HAD KIDS AND YOU DIDN'T! WHY DON'T YOU JUST ADMIT IT.
ADMIT YOU WERE ALWAYS JEALOUS.
ALWAYS.
I KNOW YOU'RE HURTING, TERRY... BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR SELF-PITY. AND NEITHER DOES WANDA'S SOUL.
SO, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT WHAT YOU THINK OF ME. BECAUSE I'M ONLY AFTER ONE THING. TO FIND THOSE THAT DID THIS TO WANDA. NOW YOU CAN EITHER GIVE THAT INFO WILLINGLY OR I'LL FORCE IT OUT OF YOU. THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU! IT'S ABOUT WANDA.
THEY'RE GOING TO PAY FOR WHAT THEY DID. EVERY SINGLE ONE OF THEM! I PROMISE YOU THAT.

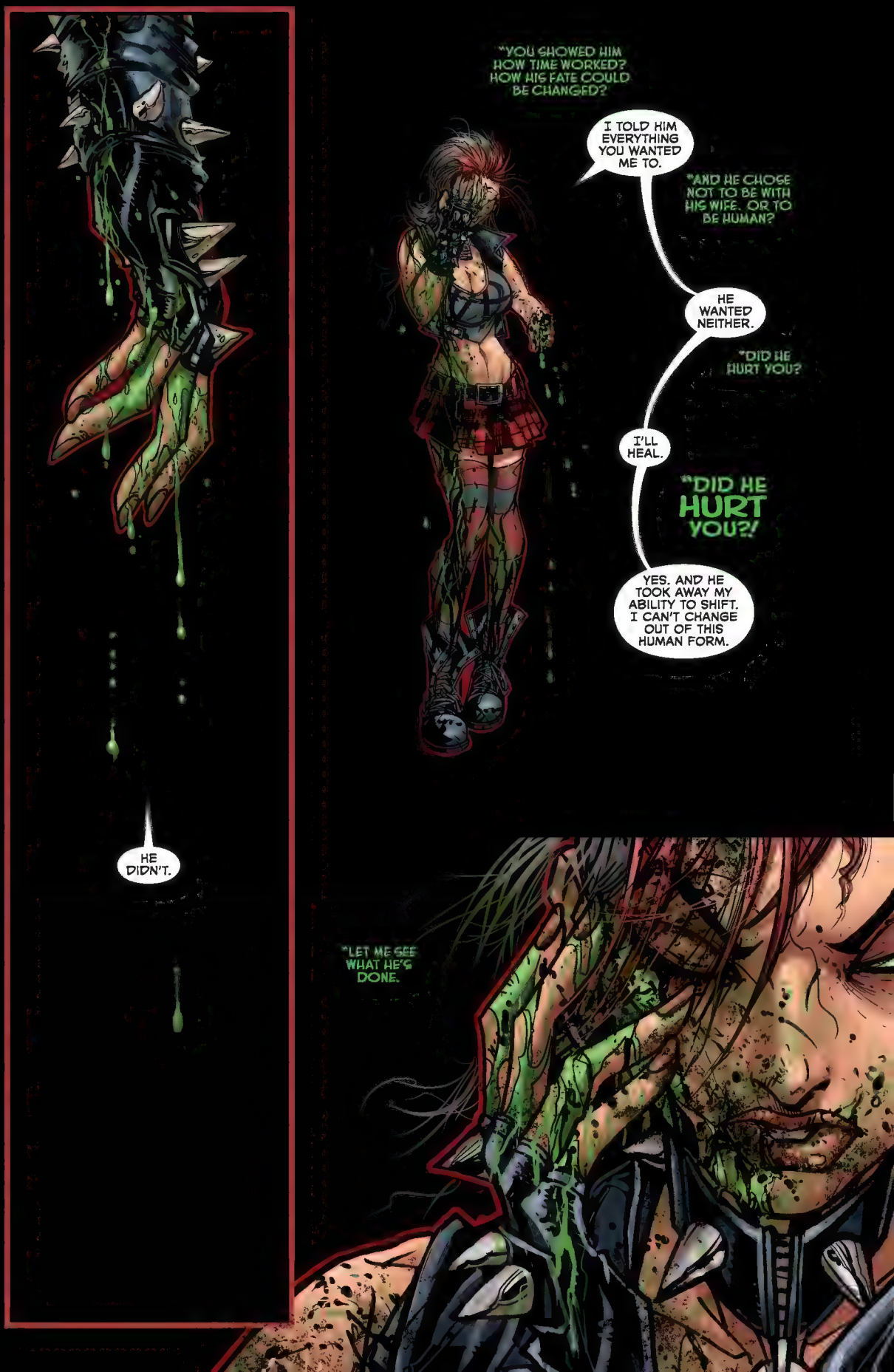
AND I PROMISE YOU SOMETHING ELSE...
THEY'LL NEVER HURT YOUR FAMILY AGAIN.
WHAT'RE YOU DOING...?
SOMETHING I SHOULD HAVE DONE A LONG TIME AGO.
THIS LIGHT... IT'LL PROTECT YOU FROM NOW ON. THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO TOUCH YOU EVER AGAIN.
"ALL OF YOU.
"GRANNY...
"CYAN...
"AND THE TWINS.
"IN THE MORNING YOU WON'T EVEN REMEMBER I WAS HERE."

BUT I STILL NEED MY ANSWER. WHERE WAS WANDA GOING?
TO A TV INTERVIEW OF SOME KIND.
WITH WHO?
DON'T REMEMBER HIS NAME.
WHAT STATION DOES HE WORK FOR?
WRRZ.
YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
WHY? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
I'M ABOUT TO FIND OUT.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF... MY FRIEND.

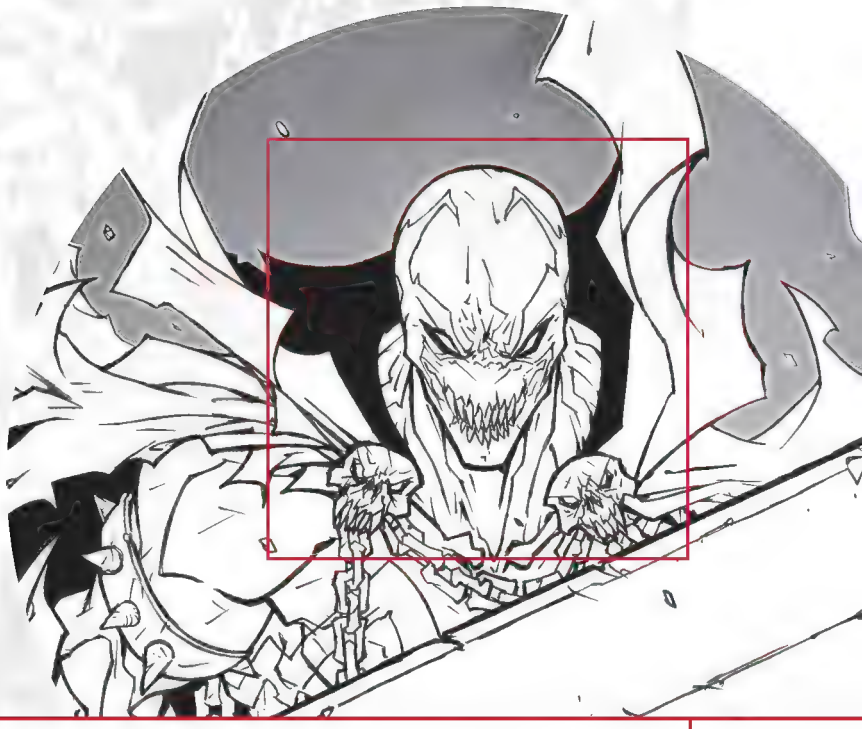
Hell.

In the deepest recesses of 'The TUNNEL'.

"COME. STAND CLOSER. NOW TELL ME...DID HE ACCEPT THE OFFER?


*YOU SHOWED HIM HOW TIME WORKED? HOW HIS FATE COULD BE CHANGED?
I TOLD HIM EVERYTHING YOU WANTED ME TO.
*AND HE CHOSE NOT TO BE WITH HIS WIFE. OR TO BE HUMAN?
HE WANTED NEITHER.
*DID HE HURT YOU?
I'LL HEAL.
*DID HE HURT YOU?!
YES. AND HE TOOK AWAY MY ABILITY TO SHIFT. I CAN'T CHANGE OUT OF THIS HUMAN FORM.
HE DIDN'T.
*LET ME SEE WHAT HE'S DONE.

WHY DO YOU LOOK AWAY? THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE. WHAT IS IT?
HE'S COMING FOR YOU.
AND WHEN HE DOES-- HE PLANS TO KILL YOU!



ART GALLERY

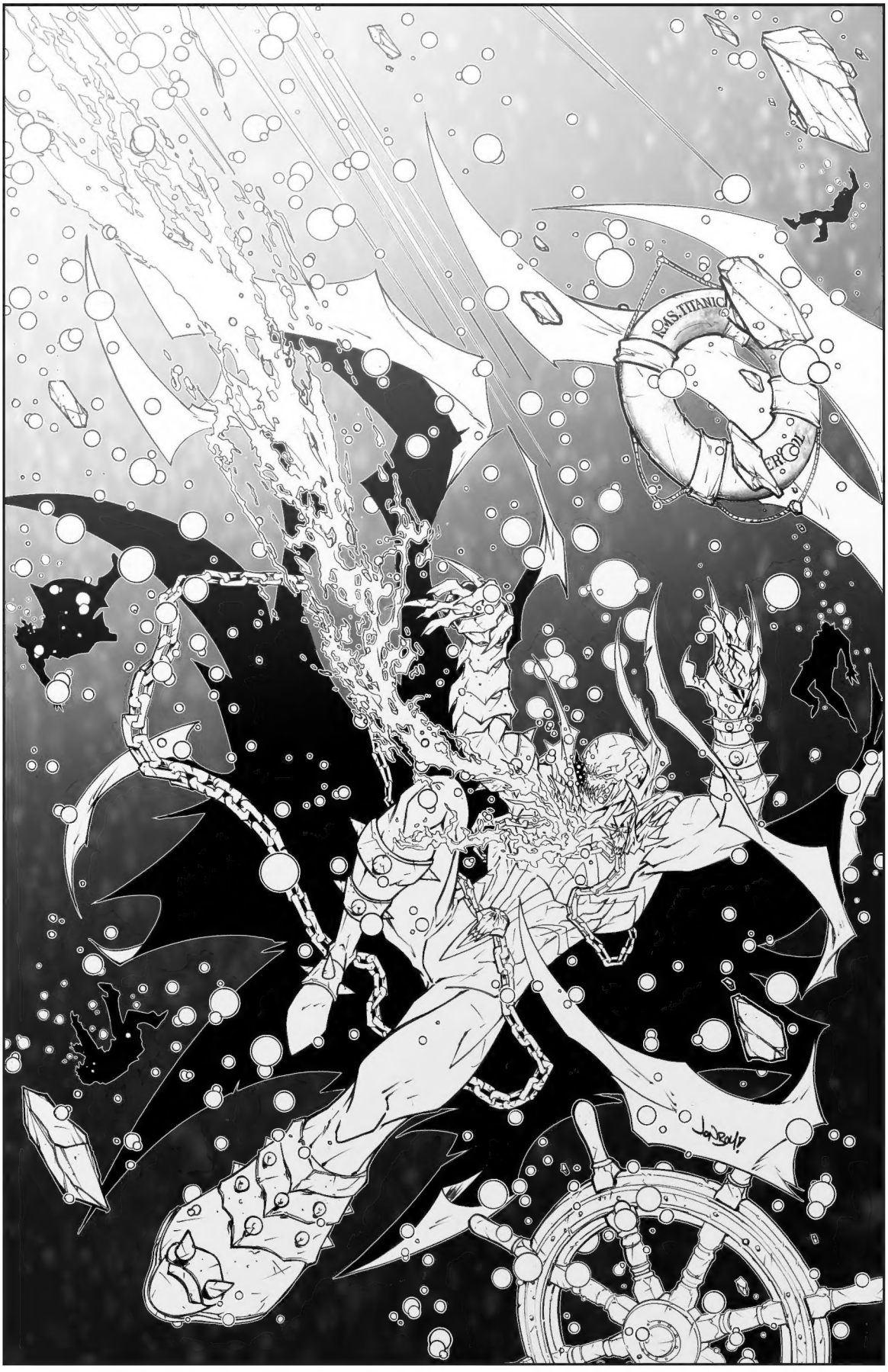
SPAWN RESURRECTION, COVER, INK

SPAWN RESURRECTION, ALTERNATE COVER, INK

SPAWN #251, COVER, INK

SPAWN #252, COVER, INK

SPAWN #253, COVER, INK



SPAWN #254, COVER, INK

SPAWN #255, COVER, INK

DARING NEW ADVENTURES, BOLD NEW DIRECTION, FRESH NEW CREATIVE TEAM!

With Spawn, legendary writer and artist Todd McFarlane unleashed his iconic antihero on the world, and launched the most successful independent comic book in history.

Spawn is a hero unlike any other. A government agent, Al Simmons was killed by his own men. Resurrected from the depths of hell, he returns to Earth as the warrior Spawn, guarding the forgotten alleys of New York City. As he seeks answers about his past, Spawn grapples with the dark forces that returned him to Earth, battling enemies and discovering unlikely allies. As he learns to harness his extraordinary new powers, he begins to grasp the full extent of what brought him back – and what he left behind.

Spawn: Resurrection features stories and artwork by the new creative team of industry powerhouses Todd McFarlane, Jonboy and Paul Jenkins. Join the new era of Spawn in which Al Simmons has returned to Earth to avenge the death of his one-time wife (and all-time love), Wanda, and their unborn child. While she languishes in the darkest depths of Hell, Al searches desperately for a way to free her. But what Al doesn't know, is that not only is he in danger on Earth, but Wanda's soul is in serious jeopardy as well. With the help of his newly found angelic ally, Michael, Al will fight his way through this world – and the underworld – to try and save the love of his life.

SPAWN RESURRECTION

image

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS

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